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History of
Dodge and Washington
Counties, Nebraska
And Their People

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VOLUME I

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHICAGO
1921

1921
VOLUME I
THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHICAGO

Regional - #2250 (2nd ed.)
9/25/64

1269375

DEDICATION

THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO
THE PIONEERS

MOST OF WHOM HAVE LONG SINCE DEPARTED. MAY THE MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO LAID DOWN THEIR BURDENS BY THE WAYSIDE EVER
BE FRAGRANT AS THE BREATH OF SUMMER FLOWERS FOR
THEIR TOILS AND SACRIFICES HAVE MADE THESE
COUNTIES A GARDEN OF SUNSHINE
AND DELIGHTS

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great sacrifice and privation. Compare the present condition of the people of Dodge and Washington counties, Nebraska, with what they were threescore years ago. From a trackless prairie it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilized life, with millions of wealth, systems of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, with tens of thousands of automobiles for the convenience of a happy and contented people. It has come to be a subdivision of a great commonwealth with its thousands of God-fearing people worshiping in scores of beautiful church edifices; with its thousands of intelligent children attending high-class standards of public free schools, with excellent instructors to impart useful and practical knowledge to them. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the incentives, hopes and aspirations as well as the efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the solid foundations upon which has been builded the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and faithfully record the social, political and industrial progress of the community within the boundaries of Dodge and Washington counties, from their first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication.

A specially valuable and highly interesting department is the one devoted to the sketches of representative men and women of the two counties under consideration. These biographies have for the most part been prepared under the direction of the subjects themselves, or by their near relatives and finally submitted to them for correction and approval before being printed, hence are considered accurate.

On account of ill health, when the work of compiling the Dodge County section of this work was commenced, Rev. William H. Buss, of Fremont, who had been selected as its editor, was unable to engage in the duties of an active compiler, hence the publishers were obliged to engage other competent compilers to do the work of gathering material and writing most of the chapters, aided, however, by a number of local writers whose contributions have embellished and made doubly valuable the work now within your hands. After the compilation had been written in full, the important chapters were then all carefully read and approved by Mr. Buss, who acted simply as supervising editor, and had nothing whatever to do with the biographical or financial part of the publication, yet to him the reader is indebted for many timely suggestions and changes, as the work was being prepared for Dodge County and the same may also be said concerning the supervising editor of the Washington County section, Mr. Thomas T. Osterman, of Blair. We especially wish in this connection to acknowledge the great aid

PREFACE

rendered us in the compilation of this work by Hon. L. D. Richards of Fremont and Judges Jackson and Eller, of Blair.

It has been the aim of the writers of this work to seek out the most useful information regarding these two counties from their earliest settlement to the present day, believing this to be of first and prime consideration for all local history, rather than to produce a work of high literary excellence. We have aimed to be fair and faithful to the interests of all whose names appear herein—whether dead or living. Therefore throw the mantle of charity over the work and believe it to be, as nearly as possible, a true, unbiased record of the comings and goings of the men and women who have lived and labored in the goodly counties of Dodge and Washington.

Our work is done—it is yours to read, to criticise and then leave as a legacy to your sons and daughters.

Believe us, faithfully,

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1921.

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History of Dodge County

INTRODUCTION

This is a concise history of that portion of the State of Nebraska known as Dodge County. It is believed to be a true account of the early settlement and subsequent development of one of the original subdivisions of this commonwealth, of which the enterprising City of Fremont is the seat of justice. In this city, today, stands (near the Union Pacific depot) a beautiful, plain Scotch granite marker, placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, for the purpose of marking the spot where the center of the great Oregon Trail (or the Overland Trail as called by some), used to run on its westward course, through Nebraska, Colorado and Utah, thence on to the far-away Pacific coast. Its altitude above sea-level is 1,192 feet. It was this trail that Gen. John C. Fremont, the "Pathfinder," took when he made his famous exploring expedition for the United States Government to the great and then unknown West. It was over this route that the most of the hardy "49" gold seekers wended their way with ox and mule teams; also the Pike's Peak gold seekers of a few years later date. Just before the Civil war came on—beginning with 1855 and 1856—emigration set in to this part of Nebraska, from New England, New York, and some of the Southern and Middle States. These brave sons and daughters left the home-fires of their native states to become pioneers in a wilderness of which they knew aught save by hearsay and reading. They exchanged, in fact, the dense fogs of the Atlantic coast, the miasma of an Indiana or Illinois swamp, for an altitude and longitude and latitude productive of vigor and robust health. They came as home-builders, not speculators, and they "buildest better than they knew."

These early settlers were in advance of railroads by more than ten years. They had great hardships to endure, but with brave hearts and strong bodies they forged through till prosperity finally crowned a majority of those who first invaded the fair prairies and fertile valleys of present Dodge County. The first settlers were ahead of the Government surveys; later comers to the county pre-empted land at \$1.25 per acre, while hundreds of returned Civil war soldiers took homesteads and thus secured what soon came to be valuable farm-homes.

The history of this county may be divided into two divisions—before railroad days and after the building of the railroads.

The annals of this county contain many interesting features and the record has been compiled from the best authority extant, and approved by men whose memory reaches back to almost the original settlement period. Each subject is properly classified and will be easily found by reference to the index. The personal sketches contained herein have all been submitted for approval to those interested, hence may be relied upon as correct.

STATE HISTORY SECTION

The work before you contains several chapters concerning the general State History of Nebraska, which leads the reader in an intelligent and interesting manner, to the county's history, locally. The reader of any given subdivision of a state's history should first be posted about the geology, topography, discovery and early settlement of the state as a whole, hence the state section of this work is an invaluable addition to that promised in the prospectus, giving the reader even much more than was promised the patrons when they ordered the work, entitled "History of Dodge and Washington Counties."

CHAPTER I

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES

GEOLOGICAL ERAS—COAL MEASURES—GLACIAL PERIOD—AGRICULTURAL VALUE OF THE SOIL—SCENERY OF THE LOESS DEPOSIT—CHARACTER OF DEPOSIT ALONG THE RIVERS—FORMATION OF THE PLATTE VALLEY—BOTTOM LANDS—LAST BUFFALO HUNT—SAND CHERRIES—SOAP WEED—ALKALI LANDS—MODERN CHANGES—TIMBER—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES—EXTREME TEMPERATURES—MEAN TEMPERATURES—NEBRASKA WINDS—MOISTURE AND RAINFALL—RANK AMONG THE STATES IN THE UNION—FORESTS—WILD FRUITS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—LEGAL HOLIDAYS—“BLUE BOOK” PARAGRAPHS—STATE SEAL—STATE FLOWER—STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS—VEGETATION—GRASSES OF NEBRASKA—WILD FLOWERS—GOVERNORS—ABSTRACT OF COUNTIES—COUNTY POPULATION—ALTITUDE AND AREA.

It has been said by one writer that geology is the poetry and romance of science. But it is far more than that. It reveals the causes that make the material prosperity of a region possible. No one can fundamentally understand his section or state unless he knows its geology. To the ordinary reader of local history it must be admitted that this subject is not of the most interesting character, yet no county or state history can in any sense be called complete without some article on the natural features of the country, be such article never so brief. Only such points as seem to the writer of importance to the readers of a history treating on Dodge and Washington Counties and the Platte Valley, in general, will be here treated.

GEOLOGICAL ERAS

Unfortunately the state geologists or the United States department of geology has never made a geological survey of these counties. Prof. Samuel Aughey, professor of natural sciences at the University of Nebraska more than forty years ago wrote extensively on the geological formation and on the topography of this state, and from this authority we are permitted to quote freely. He states in the outset of his work that:

As now understood from its rock memorials, there have been five great eras in geological history: The Archaean, Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Psychozoic. During the early part of the first era our globe was companion star to the sun, and glowed by a heat and shone by a light of its own. The basaltic rocks are believed best to represent the physical characters of the earth's crust at the beginning of recorded geological history. From such materials when our globe came to be sufficiently cooled

down were formed by the asserting power of water the sediments that were subsequently metamorphosed into the gneissic, granitic and other rock masses that constitute the Laurentian and Huronian strata of the earth's crust. As the rocks of these epochs still left in Canada are forty thousand feet thick and at least as extensive in the Rocky Mountains and the Sierras and still greater in Bohemia and Bavaria after being subjected to the numberless ages of erosion the time represented by their deposition was greater probably than the whole geological history since their close. So far as we now know during all this immensely long era there was no dry land in Nebraska. Then followed what geologists call the Paleozoic era, because of the antique or old life form of all animals and plants that appeared. The earlier portions are known as the Silurian ages during which invertebrate life was dominant and especially moluscan life and the continent was growing and extending southward from its Archaean nucleus. The next age, often called the age of fishes, and also known as the Devonian, followed, but neither in this nor the preceding age was there any dry land in Nebraska. Neither are there any known deposits of the next or sub-carboniferous period in this state. Even the millstone grit so common in the east under the coal, has not yet been found. We come now to the Carboniferous age proper.

CARBONIFEROUS AGE

During the progress of this age in Nebraska the first dry land appeared. It was one of the most wonderful ages in the history of the globe, for during its progress the thickest, most extensive and most valuable of all the coal beds were formed.

The carboniferous deposits occupy the southeastern portion of Nebraska. Approximately, the western boundary line commences at a point a little above Fort Calhoun, eighteen miles north of Omaha and extends southwest, crossing the Platte near the mouth of Salt Creek; thence running southwest a little east of Lincoln and thence in the same direction crossing the state line near the middle of the Otoe Indian Reservation. All east of this line is mainly Upper Carboniferous period. The Dakota group cretaceous sandstone once covered this entire region but was removed by erosion and small patches of it are still found in isolated basins over this carboniferous area.

COAL MEASURES

Thus far only one marketable bed of coal has been developed in our carboniferous measures. The one referred to is in the western part of Richardson County, town 1, north of the 6th principal meridian. From the bank on section 33 during the years of 1880 and 1881 over 100,000 bushels of coal were taken. A great deal was also mined from the same bed three-fourths of a mile southwest of the last. The coal is of a fine quality giving but little ash. The bed ranges from eighteen to thirty inches in thickness. The coal was in demand for local demand. In 1882 when this article was compiled developments had not yet proven how far the coal bed extended by any actual shaft-borings. At a few other points in this area coal has been discovered but not in paying quantities.

GLACIAL PERIOD

The plains were desiccated before the Pliocene had entirely passed away. Following this condition of excessive dryness came one great

period of humidity and a much lower temperature than the present or previous age. The snows of winter eventually accumulated too rapidly to be removed by the summer's warmth. This finally resulted in the glaciation of the plains of Nebraska. A thick mantle of ice extended south of the southern line of the state, and, according to Agassiz, at one time to the thirty-sixth parallel. Thus was inaugurated the Glacial epoch of the Quaternary period. The following is the order of the epochs of the Quaternary period in Nebraska: A Glacial, Forest Bed, Drift, Loess and Terrace epoch.

THE LOESS EPOCH

The loess deposits first received this name in America from Lyell, who observed them along the Mississippi in various places. The name was used previously in Europe to designate such materials in the valley of the Rhine and Danube. Hayden called them the Bluff Deposits because of the peculiar configuration they give to the uplands that bordered the flood plains of the rivers. This deposit though not particularly rich in organic remains, is in some respects one of the most remarkable in the world. Its value for agricultural purposes is not exceeded anywhere. It prevails over at least three-fourths of the surface of Nebraska. It ranges in thickness from 5 to 150 feet. Some sections in Dakota and other counties measure over 200 feet. Even at North Platte west of the Missouri, on the south side of the river, the thickness varies from 125 to 150 feet. From Crete, on the Burlington & Missouri Railroad, west to Kearney, on the Union Pacific Railroad, its thickness for ninety miles ranges from forty to ninety feet. Along the Republican the formation of various thickness extends almost to the west line of the state. It is generally almost homogeneous throughout and of almost uniform color, however thick the deposit or far apart the specimens have been taken. I have compared (says the geologist) many specimens taken 300 miles apart and from the top and bottom of the deposits and no difference could be detected by the eye or by chemical analysis.

CHARACTER OF THE LOESS

Over eighty per cent of this deposit is very finely comminuted silica. When washed in water left standing and the water poured off and the coarser materials have settled the residuum after evaporation to dryness is almost entirely composed of fine siliceous powder. So fine indeed are the particles of silica that its true character can only be detected by analysis or under the microscope. About ten per cent is composed of the carbonates and phosphates of lime. These materials are so abundant in these deposits that they spontaneously crystallize or form concretions from the size of a shot to that of a walnut; and these are often hollow or contain some organic matter or a fossil around which the crystallization took place. Almost anywhere when the soil is turned over by the plow or in excavations these concretions may be found. And often after the rain has washed newly thrown-up soil the ground seems to be literally covered with them. Old gopher hills and weather-beaten hill-sides furnish these concretions in unlimited quantities for the geologist and curiosity hunter. When first exposed most of these concretions are soft enough to be rubbed fine between the fingers but they gradually harden by the atmosphere. This deposit also contains small amounts of alkaline matter, iron and alumina. For the purpose of showing the

homogeneous character and the chemical properties of the Loess deposits the geologist has made many analyses of these peculiar deposits, five of which are here given as sample: No. 1 from Douglas County, near Omaha; No. 2 from the bluffs near Kearney; No. 3 from the Lower Loup; No. 4 from Sutton, and No. 5 from the Republican Valley, near Orleans, in Harlan County.

AGRICULTURAL VALUE OF THE LOESS

As would be expected from the elements which chemical analysis shows to be present in these deposits it forms one of the best soils in the world. In fact, it can never be exhausted until every hill and valley of which it is composed is entirely worn away. Its drainage, which is the best possible, is owing to the remarkable finely comminuted silica of which a bulk of the deposit consists. Where the grout is cultivated the most copious rains percolate through the soil which in its lowest depths retains it like a huge sponge. Even the unbroken prairie absorbs much of the heavy rains that fall. When droughts come the moisture comes up from below by capillary attraction. And when it is considered that the depth to the solid rock ranges generally from 5 to 200 feet it is seen how readily the needs of vegetation are supplied in the driest seasons. This is the main reason why over all the region where these deposits prevail, the natural vegetation and the well cultivated crops are rarely dried or drowned out. A few showers fall in April and little more rain until June when there is usually a rainy season of from three to eight weeks in duration. After these June rains little more falls until autumn; and yet if there was a deep and thorough cultivation the crops of corn, cereals and grass would be most abundant. This condition represents the dry seasons. On the other hand, the extremely wet seasons only damage the crops on the low bottoms subject to overflow. Owing to the siliceous nature of the soil they never bake when plowed in a wet condition and a day after heavy rain the plow can again be safely and successfully used. In the interior away from the Missouri, the surface of the lowest deposits is in places gently undulating and in places rolling. Not unfrequently a region will be reached where for a few miles the country is hilly and then gradually becomes with all kinds of intermediate forms almost entirely level. The bluffs that border the flood plains of the Missouri, the lower Platte and some other streams are sometimes exceedingly precipitous, sometimes gently rounded off and sometimes in gentle slopes. They often assume fantastic forms as if carved by some curious generations of the past. At present they retain their form so unchanged by year to year affected by neither rain nor frost that they must have been molded into their present outlines under circumstances of climate and level very different from those that now prevail.

FRUIT OF THE LOESS DEPOSITS

In these loess deposits, says the geological writer above mentioned, is found the explanation of the ease with which nature produces the wild fruits of Nebraska. So dense are the thickets of grapes and wild plums along some of the bottoms and bluffs of the larger streams that it is difficult to penetrate them. Over twenty-two varieties of wild plums have been discovered. Two species of wild grapes have been distinguished but these have interminable varieties. The same remark applies to the wild strawberries. Raspberries and blackberries abound in many parts of

Nebraska. The buffalo berry is common on the river bottoms of the state. Many other wild fruits abound and grow with amazing luxuriance. Of course this only applies where the prairie fires have been kept from them. It is also a paradise for many cultivated fruits. They luxuriate in a soil like this composed of such materials and with such perfectly natural drainage. No other regions except loess regions elsewhere can compare in these respects with Nebraska. The loess of the Rhine supplies Europe with some of its finest grapes and wines. The success that has already (1882) attended the cultivation of grapes in southeastern Nebraska at least proves that this state may likewise become remarkable in this respect. For the cultivation of the apple its superiority has been long since demonstrated. Though so young in years, Nebraska has taken the chief premiums in the pomological fairs at Richmond and Boston. There are obstacles here as well as elsewhere. What is claimed is that the soil, as analysis and experience prove, is eminently adapted to the cultivation of the grape and the apple. The chief drawback, especially in the interior, is climatic. In mid-summer an occasional hot wind blows from the southwest and the young apple trees need to have their trunks protected by a shingle until the top shades them. Any of the older orchardists can give the various methods by which this may be done.

SCENERY OF THE LOESS DEPOSITS

One writer says of this scenery: It has been remarked that no sharp lines of demarkation separate the kinds of scenery that produce the emotions of the grand and beautiful. This is eminently true of some of the scenery produced by the loess formations. Occasionally an elevation is encountered from whose summit there are such magnificent views of river bottom, forest and winding bluffs as to produce all the emotions of the sublime. One such elevation is Pilgrim Hill, Dakota County, on what was the farm of Hon. J. Warner. From this hill the Missouri bottom with its marvelous weird-like river can be seen for twenty miles. Dakota City and Sioux City, the latter distanced sixteen miles, are plainly visible. If it happens to be Indian summer the tints of the woods vie with the general hazy splendor of the sky to give to the far outstretched landscape more than an Oriental splendor. I had looked at some of the wonderful canyons of the Rocky Mountains but nothing there more completely filled me and satisfied the craving for the grand in nature than did this view from Pilgrim Hill. There are many landscapes everywhere of wonderful beauty along all the principal rivers. The bluffs are sometimes precipitous but generally they round off and melt into gently rolling plains. They constantly vary and in following them you come into a beautiful cove, now to a curious headland, then to terraces and however far you travel you can look in vain for a picture like the one you have just passed.

CHARACTER OF DEPOSITS ALONG THE RIVERS

If we go up the Missouri to its source and carefully examine the character of the deposits through which it passes, we cannot but be surprised at its character. These deposits being of Tertiary Cretaceous ages are exceedingly friable and easy of disintegration. The Tertiary and especially the Pliocene Tertiary is largely siliceous and the cretaceous is both siliceous and calcareous. In fact, in many places the Missouri and its tributaries flow directly over and through the chalk beds of the cretaceous deposits. From these beds the loess deposits no doubt receive their per-

cent of the phosphates and carbonates of lime. Flowing through such deposits for more than a thousand miles, the Missouri and its branches have been gathering for vast ages that peculiar mud which filled up their ancient lakes and which distinguishes them even yet from most other streams. Being anciently as now very rapid streams as soon as they emptied themselves into these great lakes and their waters became quiet, the sediment held suspended was dropped to the bottom. While this process was going on in the early portion of this age, the last of the glaciers had not retreated further than a little beyond the northern boundary of the Loess Lake and then gradually to the headwaters of Platte, the Missouri and the Yellowstone. Aided by the erosive action of the ice these mighty rivers must have been vastly more rapid and energetic at that time than in their recent history. The following analysis of the Missouri River sediment, taken at high stage, will show by comparison with the analysis of loess deposits what a remarkable resemblance there is even yet between the two substances. In 100 parts of Missouri River sediment there are of—

Insoluble (siliceous) matter	82.01
Ferric oxide	3.10
Alumina	1.70
Lime, carbonate	6.50
Lime, phosphate	3.00
Magnesia, carbonate	1.10
Potassa .....	.50
Soda .....	.22
Organic matter	1.21
Loss in analysis .....	.67
Total	100.00

This comparative identity of chemical combinations points to the remarkable sameness of geological conditions that have long periods existed in the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone regions.

After these great lakes were filled up with sediment (Missouri mud) they existed for a longer or shorter time as already remarked, as marshes and bogs. Isolated portions would first become dry land. As soon as they appeared above water they became covered with vegetation, which, decaying from year to year, and uniting under water, or at the water's edge, with the deposits at the bottom, formed the black soil so characteristic of Nebraska prairies. For it is well known that when vegetable matter decays in water or a wet location, its carbon is retained. In dry situations it passes into the atmosphere as carbonate acid gas. After the first low islands appeared they gradually increased in size and numbers, until dry land conditions prevailed. The ponds and sloughs, some of which were left almost lakes, still in existence, are doubtless the last remains of these great lakes. The rising of the land continuing the rivers began to cut new channels through the middle of the old lake beds. This drained the marshes and formed the bottom lands as the river of that period covered the whole of the present flood plains from bluff to bluff. It was then when the bluffs were new and more plastic that they were first sculptured by rains, frost and floods into their present unique forms. The Missouri during the closing centuries of the loess epoch must have been from five to thirty miles in breadth, forming a stream which for size and majesty rivaled the Amazon.

The Platte, Niobrara and Republican covered their respective flood plains in the same way. In the smaller streams of the state those that

originated within or near the loess deposits, such as the Elkhorn, Loup, Bow, Blue and the Nemahas we seen the same general form of flood-plain as on the larger rivers, and no doubt their bottoms were covered with water during this period. Hayden in his first reports has expressed the same opinion as to the original size of these rivers. Only a few students of geology will dissent from this view. The gradually melting glaciers which had been accumulating for so many ages, at the sources of these great rivers, the vast floods of waters covered by the necessarily moist climate and heavy rains, the present forms and materials and river bottoms are some of the causes which would operate to produce such vast volumes of water. The changes of level were not all upward during this period. The terraces along the Missouri, Platte and Republican rivers indicate that there were long periods when this portion of the continent was stationary. Several times the movement was downward. Along the bluffs in the Republican Valley, at a depth of from ten to thirty feet from the top, there is a line or streak of the loess mingled with organic matter. It is in fact an old bed, where vegetation must have flourished for a long period. It can be traced from Orleans upward in places for seventy-five miles. It indicates that after this bed had, as dry land, sustained a growth of vegetation, an oscillation of level depressed it sufficiently to receive a great accumulation of loess materials on top of it. Other oscillations of this character occurred previously to and subsequently to this main halt. These have already been mentioned.

FORMATION OF THE PLATTE VALLEY

As typical of the river bottoms let us look at the formation of the Platte Valley. The general direction of this great highway from the mountains to the Missouri is from west to east. This valley is from three to twenty miles wide in Nebraska and over five hundred miles long. All the materials that once filled up this trough from the tops of the highest hills on each side have been since the present rivers were outlined toward the close of the loess age transported by the agency of the water to the Missouri and the gulf. (See Hayden's Report for 1870.)

Here then are several thousand miles in area of surface and entirely removed by denudation. Now the Platte comprises a fraction of the river bottoms of Nebraska. The Republican alone for 200 miles has a bottom ranging from three to eight miles in breadth. The combined length of the main bottoms of the Blues, Elkhorns and the Loups would be over a thousand miles and their breadth ranges from one to ten miles. The Nemahas and the Bows, and portions of the Niobrara, also add a great deal to the area of the bottom lands. All the rivers have numerous tributaries which have valleys in size proportionate to the main rivers and these more than double the area of the bottom lands. These Missouri bottoms in Nebraska are exceptionally high, so that a few of them have been overflowed since known to white men. The one element of uncertainty about them is, when located near the river, the danger of being washed away by the undermining action of the water. Sometimes during a flood time, when the current sweeps the bank, it is so insidiously undermined that for several rods in length and many feet in breadth it tumbles into the river. This cutting of the banks is greatest when the river commences to fall.

When we bring into our estimate all of the river bottoms of Nebraska, and the tributaries of these streams, and reflect that all of these valleys were formed in the same way, within comparatively modern geological

times, the forces which waterway agencies brought into play almost appall the mind by their very immensity.

AGRICULTURAL VALUE OF THE BOTTOM LANDS

So well are the bottom lands of this state distributed that the emigrants can, and in most of the counties of the state, choose between them and the uplands for their future homes. (This was written in 1882.)

In some of the counties like Fillmore, where the bottom lands are far apart, there are many small, modern, dried-up lake beds, whose soil is closely allied to the valleys. Portions of each are sometimes chosen, on the supposition that the bottom lands are best adapted to the growth of large crops of grasses.

But of all the years of experience in cultivating uplands and bottoms in Nebraska leave the question of superiority of the one over the other undecided. Both have their advocates. The season as well as the location have much to do with the question. Some bottom lands are high and dry while others are lower and contain so much alumina that in wet seasons they are difficult to work. On such lands, too, a wet spring interferes somewhat with early planting and sowing. All the uplands, too, which have a loess origin seem to produce cultivated grass as luxuriantly as the richest bottoms, especially where there is a deep cultivation on old breaking. Again most of the bottom lands are so mingled with loess materials and their drainage is so good that the cereal grains and fruits are as productive on them as on the highlands. The bottom lands, however, are the richest in organic matter. The following analyses of these soils will give a better idea of their critical agricultural character. The samples were taken from what are believed to be average soils. The first is from the Elkhorn, the second from the Platte, the third from the Republican and the fourth from the Blue River. Number 2 analysis in the tables made by the state geologist, refers more especially to the Platte River valley and, of course, to Dodge and Washington counties.

Insoluble (siliceous) matter.....	63.70
Ferric oxide	2.25
Alumina	7.76
Lime, carbonate	7.99
Lime, phosphate .....	.85
Magnesia, carbonate	1.45
Potash .....	.54
Soda .....	.52
Sulphuric acid .....	.70
Organic matter	13.45
Loss in analyses.....	.79
Total	100.00

Soils when taken a few feet apart vary much in their chemical properties, and therefore analysis frequently fail to give a correct idea of their true character. This table shows that chemically alluvium differs from the loess principally in having more organic matter than alumina and less silica. The depth of the alluvium varies greatly. Sometimes sand and drift material predominate in the river bottoms, especially in the subsoils. Often the alluvium is of an unknown depth and again in a few feet the drift pebbles and sand are struck. This is especially true in the western valleys. There was a period of longer or shorter duration when the bottoms were in the condition of swamps and bogs; and

during this period the greater part of that organic matter which is a distinguishing feature of these lands accumulated in the surface soil. It would be easy to select isolated spots where the soil had from 30 to 40 per cent of organic matter; where in fact it is semi-peat. When we reflect that this black soil is often twenty feet thick it is apparent that the period of its formation must have been very long. There are still some few localities where that formative condition has been perpetuated to the present time—as for example the bogs that yet exist at the head waters of the Elkhorn and Logan along Elk Creek on the Dakota bottom and on some of the tributaries of the Republican. All the intermediate stages from perfectly dry bottoms to a bog can yet be found. So much has the volume of water been lessened in the rivers of Nebraska through the influence of geological causes that there are few places where now even in flood-time they overflow their banks. The occurrence of great masses of timber on our bottoms at various depth in a semi-decayed condition, illustrates through what changes of level they have passed. The deepening of the river channels now going on still further lessens the dangers of overflow.

SAND CHERRIES

The sand cherries common to this region grow on spreading shrubs, varying in size according to their relatively advantageous situation. The cherry is somewhat smaller than the orchard cherry. It resembles the choke cherry in color though somewhat darker, also in its astringent taste, and its "puckering" the mouth. When fully ripe it is pleasant to the taste, notwithstanding the dictum of long distance authority that it is scarcely edible and is used locally for making jams and marmalade. This sandhill shrub was named "prunus besseyi" for Charles E. Bessey the distinguished botanist, though he himself doubted that it should be regarded as a different species from the "prunus pumila" of the sand district in the region of the Great Lakes.

SOAP WEED

Soap weed, more properly "yucca," is so-called because it yields a substance sometimes used as a substitute for soap. The root of the Nebraska species, "Yucca Glauca," was used by the Ogalala and probably other trans-Missouri Indians as a shampoo. They believed that it stimulated the growth of the hair. A decoction of the roots were used in tanning hides also and the leaves for fuel.

While the sandhill region is sparsely settled, the population of its typical counties ranging from about 1,500 to about 2,500, its production of cattle and dairying are very important industries. There was a heavy loss of population from 1900 to 1902; a heavy gain from 1902 to 1904, doubtless due mainly to the so-called Kinkaid act, passed April 28, 1904, which conferred the right to homestead 640 acres in the territory it covered instead of the ordinary quarter section; a considerable loss again from 1904 to 1906; then an important increase from 1906 to 1908; a small loss from 1908 to 1910; a general increase from 1910 to 1912; and a small general increase from 1912 to 1914. The territory to be affected by the Kinkaid act was evidently determined with reference to the sandhill region and the degree of aridity. Thus on the northeast this favored land extends to the eastern boundary of the counties of Boyd, Holt and Wheeler, while in the southwest the eastern boundaries of the counties of Hayes and Hitchcock in its eastern limit.

ALKALI LANDS

Every one in Nebraska will sooner or later hear of the so-called alkali lands. They are not confined to anyone geological formation, but are found sometimes on the drift, alluvium or the loess. They increase in number from the eastern to the western portions of the state. Yet one-half of the counties of the state do not have any such lands and often there are only a few in a township or county. When they have been closely examined, they are found to vary a great deal in chemical constituents. Generally, however, the alkali is largely composed of soda compounds, with an occasional excess of lime and magnesia or potash. The following analyses of these soils show how variable they are. That showing the Platte bottom land, south of North Platte, is as follows:

Insoluble (siliceous) matter	74.00
Ferric oxide	3.80
Alumina	2.08
Lime, carbonate	6.01
Lime, phosphate	1.70
Magnesia, carbonate	1.89
Potash	1.68
Soda carbonate and bicarbonates	5.17
Sodium sulphate	.70
Moisture	.99
Organic matter	1.20
Loss in analyses	.78
Total	100.00

The specimens for analyses were not taken from soil crusted over with alkaline matter but from spots where the ground was covered with a sparse vegetation.

Much of the alkali originated by the accumulation of water in low places. The escape of the water by evaporation left the saline matter behind and in the case of salt (sodium chloride) which all waters contain in at least minute quantities, the chloride by chemical reactions separated from the sodium; the latter uniting with oxygen, and carbonic acid formed the soda compounds. The alkali that exists far down in the soil is also brought up during dry weather by the escaping moisture and is left on the surface when the water is evaporated.

In cultivating these alkali spots it is found that wheat rapidly consumes it and a few crops with deep plowing prepares the soil for other crops. In this way these lands have often been made the most valuable part of the farm.

MODERN PHYSICAL CHANGES—TIMBER

When the loess epoch was drawing to a close and portions of the area covered by these deposits were yet in the condition of a bog, the climate was much more favorable than the present for the growth of timber. Rainfall was then much more abundant. In 1868, says Professor Aughey, I found logs, some of which were 60 feet in length, buried in the peat bogs at the head of the Logan where no timber was then growing within twenty miles. They evidently grew on the shores or banks and after falling into the bog they were protected from decay by the antiseptic qualities of peaty waters. Many other facts exist showing the greater

prevalence of forests within geologically recent times. It is known that at a comparatively recent period pine forests existed eastward to the mouth of the Niobrara along the northern line of the state. What caused the disappearance of these forests cannot perhaps be determined for a certainty. Some geologists hold that the increasing dryness of the climate caused the disappearance of the old forests. Might not the converse of this be true here as elsewhere—namely that the destruction of forests inaugurated the dry climate that prevailed when this territory was first explored (?) it is at least conceivable that the primitive forests received their death blow in a dry summer by fire through the vandal acts of Indians in pursuit of game or by acts connected with a war period. An old tradition that I once heard from the Omaha Indians points to this conclusion.

It is wonderful how nature here responds to the efforts of men for reclothing this territory with timber. Man thus becomes an efficient agent for the production of geological changes. As prairie fires are repressed and trees are planted by the million the climate must be further ameliorated. When once there are groves of timber on every section or quarter section of land in the state an approach will be made to some of the best physical conditions of tertiary times. The people of this comparatively new state have a wonderful inheritance of wealth, beauty and power in their fine climate and their rich lands and as they become conscious of this they will more and more lend a helping hand to the processes of nature for the development and utilization of the material wealth of Nebraska.

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL FEATURES

Nebraska occupies a position near the center of the republic and is varied in its topography. There are no elevations approaching anywhere near to mountains, but in the north and western portions there are very lofty hills, though generally they are gentle of ascent. The hills and rolling lands of Nebraska are mostly caused by erosion. In fact all of this state emerged so recently geologically from the waters of the Loess age that it still exhibits, as a whole, many of the phenomena of a recently drained lake bed.

No one can gain any correct idea of the number of bottom lands in Nebraska by looking at a map—not even the United States Government maps. In fact, counting in the small tributaries with their narrow bottoms, not less than 25 per cent of the surface of the state is made up of bottom lands.

Temperature—Much of error has from time to time been written concerning the temperature of Central and Western Nebraska, but from the latest reports compiled from records of weather as found at the signal stations at Omaha and North Platte, with even earlier auxiliary records taken by United States army officers before the weather stations were established at these points, show that the mean temperature of the months of June, July and August is not far from 73 degrees. At the North Platte station it averages a little higher than this. There are, however, some advantages in high summer temperature, for in such locations only do the finest grapes mature. The fine soils and natural drainage of this state would be without avail were it not that these conditions are complemented by a higher mean summer temperature.

During the winter months, embracing December, January and February, the mean temperature is 20 degrees above zero. The autumns are indeed wonderfully beautiful, and are long and dry. The average temperature as shown between 1872 and 1882, for these three months of autumn weather was a fraction less than 50 degrees above zero. The long Indian summers are here, more than elsewhere, characterized by a curious haze which mellows the light of the sun. It has the curious effect on high strung natures of rousing their poetic sensibilities and giving the weird and shadowy experiences of dreamland. At such a season existence to a healthy body is a pleasure and real toil a delight.

YEARLY MEAN TEMPERATURE

Notwithstanding the extreme cold of a few days in winter, the mean temperature is very high. The mean yearly isotherm of 55 degrees passes through Washington, District of Columbia, Cincinnati and Southern Iowa, strikes the Missouri River near Nebraska City and then moving northwest crosses the Platte near Columbus and then in a northwesterly direction across the state. This mean annual isotherm therefore embraces over one-half of the state. The mean yearly temperature of 52½ degrees which passes through Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, crosses the center of Iowa, diagonally, strikes Sioux City on the Missouri, thence following the Missouri some distance, takes in the whole of Nebraska not including the yearly isotherm of 55 degrees. The yearly isotherm of 57½ degrees passes south of Nebraska. A portion of Southern and Southwestern Nebraska is therefore included between the yearly isotherms of 57½ degrees and 55 degrees and the balance between 55 degrees and 52½ degrees.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

In Doctor Child's record of nineteen years, prior to the '80s, the mercury rose to 100 degrees and upward twenty-nine times, or an average to a little more than a day and a half a year. The hottest year was that of 1874 when the thermometer in July and August rose to 100 degrees and upward on twelve different days. On July 13th it rose to 113 degrees, it being the hottest day, according to Doctor Child's record, in nineteen years.

Occasionally the thermometer falls quite low. In North Nebraska the thermometer has been known on a few occasions to descend to at least 35 degrees below zero. South of the Platte River, Doctor Child's lowest record for nineteen years was for December 11, 1869, when the mercury fell to 30 degrees below zero. Almost every winter the mercury goes below zero for a few days. The extremes of temperature are therefore great while the mean is high. And yet no acute sufferings or other ill consequences flow from it. The heat of summer is modified by the breezes that fan the land. The severe cold of the extremes of winter is made indurable by the dryness of the atmosphere period. The dryness is so great that the cold is not felt here more when the thermometer marks 20 degrees below zero than it is in Pennsylvania when it stands only at zero. It is moisture that intensifies the sensation of chilliness. It is the moisture of the atmosphere of the East that makes the sensation of cold so much severer there than here. For the same reason the fruit buds survive a cold here which would be fatal to them in the East.

WINDS OF NEBRASKA

One who has made the course of the prevailing winds in this section of Nebraska a study, has this to say relative to this subject, the same being from observations very early in history of the weather service in the State of Nebraska:

"The atmosphere is rarely quiescent in Nebraska. While hurricanes are very rare, storms are more frequent in winter and gentle zephyrs and winds are almost constant. These greatly modify the heat of the summer and the cold of winter. When the thermometer is up among the nineties even a south or southwest wind makes the weather endurable. At this high temperature the atmosphere is almost certain to be in perceptible motion from some direction. The prevailing winds in winter are from the north and northwest.

"With the coming of spring there is a great change in this respect. The winds veer around and a strong current sets in from the south, blowing from the Gulf of Mexico, but entering the interior is deflected by the earth's motion and becomes a southwest wind. This remains the prevailing wind during the entire summer and often until late in autumn."

THE STORMS OF WINTER

A very mistaken idea used to obtain concerning the severe weather of Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, but in more enlightened and recent times it has come to be known that Nebraska is not worse in winter than scores of states in the Union and not nearly so severe as many. During one-half the years, none are experienced of severity, and when they do come the laws that govern their occurrence are so well understood by the older residents of the commonwealth that little damage is suffered from them. One of the laws of their occurrence is their periodicity. When the first one of the season comes, whether it is in November, December or January, a similar one is almost sure to occur within a few days or a month from the first. Those whose necessities or business calls them out during the winter season need only the date of the first to know when to guard against the next. It is rare, however, that more than one of these periodical storms is of great severity.

When these commence they are rarely heralded by anything except areas of low barometer, even this warning is sometimes absent. The wind generally blows gently from the north, northeast or northwest. It is often preceded and accompanied by a fall of fine snow. Sometimes the storm or wind does not commence till the snowfall has ceased. The wind gradually intensifies itself, accompanied by a falling barometer. Its violence increases until the snow is blown into huge drifts and sometimes all that fell during several days seems mingled with the atmosphere so that it is impossible to recognize roads or even the points of the compass. Progression becomes impossible except in the same direction with the wind. This is an extreme case but a truthful one and fortunately of rare occurrence. Such storms last from one to three days and a few instances are on record where they have lasted five days. When the wind ceases to blow the thermometer reaches its lowest point and the intensest cold that occurs in these latitudes is experienced. In a few days the thermometer rises, the weather becomes moderate and pleasant and all about the storm is apt to be forgotten. So mild does the weather often become in December and January between these storms that men work in the open air in their shirt sleeves. This is what often deceives the

unwary and especially newcomers. I have known men starting off in new settlements for loads of wood going in their shirt sleeves with a single coat in reserve in the wagon, to be caught in such storms, and, losing their way, to perish. Proper observation and care as we have seen would avoid such suffering and disaster. Notwithstanding, however, these storms of winter there are many more days here during winter when men can work more comfortably in the open air than in the East.

MOISTURE AND RAINFALL

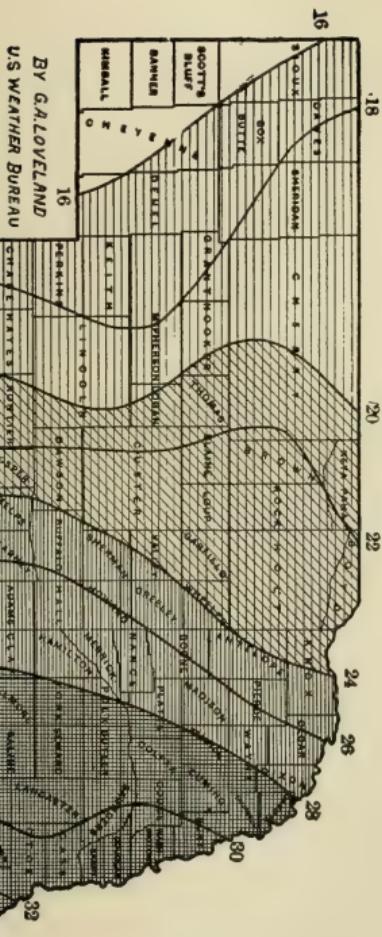
Eastern Nebraska has an abundance of moisture. This may appear to be an exaggeration to those who are educated to believe that Nebraska was an arid region. And yet there is nothing in the natural history of the state better established than that there is here an abundance of rainfall.

As has been said by an old and well-posted citizen: When the snows of winter disappear the ground is in good condition to be worked. Sufficient showers come during early spring to excite the crops of cereal grains, grasses and corn to an active growth. Sometimes it is comparatively dry between the spring showers and the June rains. These come sometimes earlier than June, in the last of May, and sometimes not till the last of June, and constitute the rainy season of the state. It begins whenever the "big rise" of the Missouri and Platte occur. This rainy season lasts from four to eight weeks. In seventeen years I have not known it to fail. During its continuance it does not indeed rain every day, except occasionally for a short period. Generally during this period it rains from two to three times a week. It is more apt to rain every night than every day. In fact, during the whole of this season three-fourths of the rain falls at night. It is not an unusual occurrence for rain to fall every night for weeks, followed by cloudless days. This rainy season of June occurs at a period when crops most need rain and owing to the regularity of its occurrence droughts sufficiently severe to destroy the crops in eastern Nebraska where there is a proper cultivation have not yet been known. Even in 1874 when the droughts in some parts of the state was damaging there were some fields of corn that produced good crops where the majority were failures. The successful fields were the ones that were well and deeply cultivated. After the wet season of June, which extends sometimes into July, is over, there are rains and showers at longer intervals until and during autumn. During winter it rarely rains. Snow falls in winter, but seldom to a great depth. The snow ranges in depth from 1 to 10 inches and in a few extreme cases it is 15 inches. During the majority of winters no snow falls over 8 inches.

West of the one hundredth meridian the amount of rainfall decreases from the yearly average of thirty inches at or near Kearney Junction, to twenty inches at North Platte.

If exceptional years were taken into account the rainfall should be estimated at thirty inches almost to the west line of the state. The average for a period of ten years would by no means place it near so high. North of the Platte, in the Loup valleys, abundant rainfall has existed very much farther to the west.

Even the relative amount of the moisture in the atmosphere is high. This is evident from the Omaha signal service reports, and North Platte. It reports as much vapor on an average in the atmosphere at Omaha as exists in the states in the Mississippi Valley. At North Platte, which represents western Nebraska, the atmosphere contains comparatively a



large amount of vapor. The following table taken from the report of the signal office for the year ending June, 1878—forty-two years ago—gives the vapor in the atmosphere for each month.

	Per Cent North Platte	Per Cent Omaha
July, 1877	47.02	62.04
August, 1877	57.05	67.04
September, 1877	52.09	69.00
October, 1877	64.08	73.06
November, 1877	64.03	73.07
December, 1877	68.04	77.08
January, 1878	68.04	78.06
February, 1878	66.03	73.01
March, 1878	61.04	64.08
April, 1878	54.05	59.08
May, 1878	64.04	63.07
June, 1878	69.07	71.01
Annual means	61.06	69.06

The amount of rainfall during the year ended November 30, 1877, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, was forty and sixty-two hundredths inches.

The rainfall in British Islands is 32 inches; in western France, 25 inches; in eastern France, 22 inches; in Sweden, 21 inches; central Germany, 20 inches; in Hungary, 17 inches; in eastern Russia, 14 inches; in Portugal, 11 inches; in Madrid, 10 inches. Paris has only 20 inches of rainfall.

At North Platte the average amount of rainfall is twenty-two inches, or was thirty years ago, but has materially increased since that date.

It should be ever remembered that the rainfall is increasing with the absorptive power of the soil, wrought by cultivation, largely, and in a smaller degree by the increase in timber of artificial planting. A square foot of virgin prairie soil will only absorb one-tenth as much water as will a square foot of cultivated soil. Thus the latter finally sends back to the clouds ten times the moisture that the tough sod does.

NEBRASKA'S RANK AMONG OTHER STATES

The statistics of the Bureau of Labor for this state in 1904 gave out the following statistics:

Nebraska has the largest creamery in the world.

Nebraska has the largest broom factory in the world.

Nebraska has the largest cattle-feeding station in the world.

Nebraska has the largest beet-sugar syrup and refining plant in the world.

Nebraska has the second largest smelting works in the world.

Nebraska has the third largest meat packing plant in the world.

Nebraska is the third state in corn production.

Nebraska stands fourth in the production of wheat.

Nebraska stands fourth in the production of oats.

Nebraska stands fifth in the production of beet sugar.

Nebraska stands first in the production of rye.

Nebraska stands fourth in the production of cattle.

Nebraska stands fourth in the production of hogs.

Nebraska stands seventh in the production of horses.

Nebraska stands tenth in the production of milch cows.

Nebraska stands first in the production of vine seeds and sugar corn for seed purposes, growing more than all other parts of the United States.

Nebraska has the greatest number of distinct varieties of native pasture and hay grasses of any state in the Union.

LOCATION AND AREA

Nebraska is situated between 40 and 43 degrees of latitude north, and between 95 degrees and 25 minutes and 104 degrees of west longitude. Its width from north to south is 208 miles, length from east to west 412 miles and an area of about 77,000 square miles. Nebraska is larger than all of the New England States combined, and has eight counties that are each larger than the State of Rhode Island; it is seven times as large as Belgium, has 18,000 more square miles than England and Wales and is 14,000 square miles larger than Scotland and Ireland combined.

The prairies are dotted with towns, having every modern convenience in the way of churches, schools, libraries, public halls, moving picture houses, parks, water and light plants, railway, postal, telegraph and telephone facilities; and with cheerful homesteads surrounded by groves and orchards, looking out on a beautiful expanse of cereal fields as meadows. In no other commonwealth are the urban and rural population more in touch with each other, and both fully share the best things in life together.

THE MIGHTY PLATTE RIVER

The rivers of Nebraska are distinguished for their breadth, number, and some of them for their rapidity and depth. The Missouri is the chief stream not alone for Nebraska but for the whole country, because it gives character to all the others that unite with the great Gulf of Mexico. Forming the eastern border of our state, and a small portion of the northern boundary, with about 500 miles of the stream washing the eastern and northern portions of the state. It is deep and rapid and its channel conveys water from the snow-capped mountains of the northwest, via the wonderful Yellowstone River on down to the far-away Gulf, dividing several places on its onward rush to the southland and eventually mingles with the waters of the ocean.

The next river of importance in Nebraska is the Platte, the length of which is approximately 1,200 miles. Its headwaters head in the mountains and some of them in lakelets fed by the everlasting snows. By the time this river reaches Nebraska it is broad, shallow, sandy, but still flows with a rapid current. It flows through the whole length of the state, from west to east, dividing the state, but leaving the largest part to the north. At places, in low water stages, it can be forded, though frequently teams become mired in the quicksand. This stream is not navigable. It has long since been finely bridged by structures at Fremont, Schuyler, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte and other points. The South Fork of this stream enters from Colorado at the southwest corner of the state, while North Platte enters the state from Wyoming near latitude 42. The average volume of water at North Platte is greater than at its mouth, though it receives in the meantime some large tributaries, the most important of which are the Elkhorn, Papillion, Shell Creek, Loup and Wood rivers. The best authorities aver that the explanation for the decrease in the waters of the Platte below their forks is from the fact that the character of the bottom and its continuation

with the "drift" underlying the uplands south of the Platte. The bottom of the Platte is extremely sandy, and is continuous with a sandy, gravelly and pebbly deposit of the drift under the loess as far as to the Republican River. The general level of the Republican is 352 feet below that of the Platte. There is, therefore, a descent from the Platte to the Republican, and along such a formation that there is easy drainage from the one to the other. That there is such a waste or drainage into the Republican River there can be no doubt. The prospectors and geological surveyors mention the fact that while wading in the channel of the Republican in the month of August, for many miles, they noticed on the north side of the stream water oozing out of the drift continuously every few feet in places and rarely less than every few rods. Nothing of this



TYPICAL SCENE ALONG THE NORTH PLATTE

kind was observed on the southern side of the river. When tributaries of the Republican from the northwest cut deep enough to strike the drift, they share in the reception of this water from the Platte.

Flood time for the Platte is generally about the same time as that of the Missouri—sometimes a few days or weeks earlier, but the continuance of both is so long that they meet, though they rarely culminate together. The Platte drains principally from the northwest. Its watershed on the south is only a few miles from its valley, while on the north it extends in places to within thirty-six miles of the northern line of the state.

CHARACTER OF THE WATER

Carbonate of lime is the commonest ingredient of the waters of springs and wells. Then follow in minute and varying quantities in different springs carbonate of potash and soda, sulphate of potash, soda and lime, chloride of sodium and potash and free carbonic acid. Many springs are free from most of these salts. Carbonate of lime, the commonest impurity, is seldom present in injurious quantities. Perhaps three-fourths of the springs of Nebraska contain it in amount varying from a trace to distinctly hard water. There are many springs and wells

whose waters are remarkably soft. Those of the Bow River are mainly of this character. Generally, where springs emerge from the gravel beds and pebbles or strata of sand in the drift the waters are soft and otherwise remarkably pure. Wells sunk in these deposits are of the same character. On the other hand water obtained from the loess whether by springs or well has a perceptible quantity of carbonate of lime and a small quantity of lime in solution. There are also strata in the drift containing a large amount of lime and this is often the source of the hardness of the water that proceeds from these deposits. In general the waters of springs and wells is remarkably clear and cool and free from injurious ingredients. There is, of course, no such thing as absolutely pure water, except by distillation. It is the salts that natural water contains that make it palatable.

Some of the wells sunk in the rocks of the Dakota group have a strong taste of iron. While this is disagreeable it is not specially injurious.

The character of the river and creek waters of Nebraska is peculiar from the large quantities of sediments which they contain. The Missouri leads in this respect. At high water it contains 403 grains per gallon; at low water 51 9/10 grains per gallon. Carbonate of lime is present in considerable quantities; also small quantities of carbonate of soda, iron in various forms and carbonic acid. Minute quantities of sulphuric acid, magnesia and organic matters were also present.

Though the water of the Missouri is muddy yet when it is allowed to settle and become clear it is singularly sweet and in summer when cooled with ice it is easily delicious. Barrels of Missouri water have been seen in July and August and whether in the shade or in the sun no infusoria or other minute animal forms could be detected with the microscope even after a week's exposure. No such experience can be related of any other water from rivers. Probably one reason of this is that the sediment held in suspension by the water carries to the bottom as it settles all organic matter. Eventually, infusoria appear in it from ten to twelve days, while with ordinary water under the same circumstances they can be found within a week.

The waters of the Platte River do not materially differ from those of the Missouri. It holds about as much sediment in suspension during flood time, but materially less in time of low water.

TIMBER

Geologists have shown in recent years that Nebraska was at no very remote day heavily timbered with a varied forest vegetation. When the causes commenced to operate that finally reduced its area to present limits some of the species retired gradually to such protected localities as favored their perpetuation. One of these causes was probably forest and prairie fires inaugurated by primitive races for the chase and for war. Some species are now confined to spots where fires cannot reach them. Another probable cause was the encroachment on the timber by the prairie caused by the ground being so compacted with the tread of countless number of buffaloes that tramped outgrowing shoots and unfitting the soil for the burial of seeds. Since the buffalo has retired and prairie fires have been repressed, and rainfall is increasing, the area of timber lands is spontaneously extending again in many directions.

Up to 1880 seventy-one species of trees have been discovered growing wild in Nebraska. Among these are linnwood, maple, locust, wild cherry,

ash of four species, four species of elm, walnut, hickory, twelve kinds of oak, many species of willows, four species of cottonwood, pine and cedar.

WILD FRUITS

Wild fruits are a prominent feature of Nebraska. They luxuriate in its rich soil and almost semi-tropical summers. Among the wild fruits of this state the plum family is a remarkable example of how nature herself sometimes ameliorates and improves her original productions. There are three type-species of plums in the state—viz.: (*Prunus Americana*), *Chicasa* and *Pumila*. Of these there is almost an endless number of varieties. In a plum thicket in Dakota County, covering only a few acres, there has been counted nineteen varieties of *Prunus Americana* and *Chicasa* varying in size from a fourth to an inch and one-quarter in diameter and in color from almost white and salmon to many shades of yellow, tinged with green and red and from a light, dark and scarlet red to purple tinged with different shades of yellow. Such instances are frequent over most portions of the state, the plum being common in almost every county, especially along the water courses and bordering the belts of native timber. These plum groves in springtime present a vast sea of flowers whose fragrance is wafted for miles and whose beauty attracts every eye.

The color of the plum is of all shades, various hues of yellow, red and crimson. Some varieties are large, thin-skinned and very delicious. They ripen from July to the last of September. Delicious as some of these plums are, they are much improved by cultivation.

Wild cherries abound in various parts of the state. Two species of strawberry of fine flavor are in places amazingly abundant. Raspberries, blackberries, hawthorns, June berries, wild currants and especially gooseberries find here a most congenial home. Of the latter there are many varieties.

Two species of grape and an endless number of varieties grow most luxuriantly within our borders. It is not an unusual experience to find timber almost impenetrable in places from the excessive growth of wild grapevines.

There is as much difference in flavor and quality as there is in form.

Mulberries, buffalo berries and elderberries are abundant in places and all can be produced with great ease by cultivation. In south Nebraska the pawpaw is also found. Walnuts, hickory and hazel nuts are common.

STATE INSTITUTIONS

Institute for Feeble Minded, Beatrice.	Home for Friendless, Lincoln. St. Agnes Academy, Alliance.
State Normal School, Chadron.	Bellevue College, Bellevue.
Boys' Industrial School, Kearney.	Christian University, Bethany.
Girls' Industrial School, Geneva.	Dana College, Blair.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Grand Island.	Trinity Seminary, Blair.
Insane Asylum, Ingleside.	Central College, Central City.
Tubercular Hospital, Kearney.	Union College (Adventist), College View.
State Normal School, Kearney.	St. Francis Academy, Columbus.
Capitol, Lincoln.	State Agricultural School, Curtis.

Doane College (Congregational), Crete.	School for the Deaf, Omaha.
Sacret Heart Academy, Falls City.	State Normal School, Peru.
Franklin Academy, Franklin.	Fish Hatchery, Valentine.
Fremont College, Fremont.	State Normal School, Wayne.
Indian Industrial School, Genoa.	Military Academy (Episcopal), Kearney.
Grand Island College, Grand Island.	Medical College, Lincoln.
Hastings College, Hastings.	Martin Luther Seminary, Lincoln.
Immaculate Conception Academy, Hastings.	Whitten-Carlisle School, Lincoln.
Hebron Academy, Hebron.	Nelson College, Nelson.
St. Catherine Academy, Jackson.	Brownell Hall, Omaha.
York College, York.	Creighton University, Omaha.
Ursuline Convent, York.	High School of Commerce, Omaha.
Nebraska Hospital for Insane, Lincoln.	University of Omaha, Omaha.
Orthopedic Hospital, Lincoln.	St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill.
State Fair, Lincoln.	Santee Indian Training School, Santee.
State Penitentiary, Lincoln.	Lutheran Seminary, Seward.
University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	Spalding College, Spalding.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Milford.	Martin Luther Academy, Sterling.
Industrial Home, Milford.	Wesleyan University (Methodist Episcopal), Lincoln.
School for the Blind, Nebraska City.	Luther College, Wahoo.
Insane Asylum, Norfolk.	St. Augustine School for Indian Girls, Winnebago.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS

In the State of Nebraska there are now the following legal holidays:

January 1, New Year's Day.

February 22, Washington's Birthday.

April 22, Arbor Day.

May 30, Memorial Day.

July 4, Independence Day.

September (first Monday), Labor Day.

October 12, Columbus Day.

November (by proclamation), Thanksgiving Day.

December 25, Christmas Day.

"BLUE BOOK" PARAGRAPHS

The official Blue Book for Nebraska in 1915 has the following historic paragraphs which should here find permanent place in the annals of Dodge and Washington counties.

The Overland Trails—On April 10, 1830, Sublette and Jackson with ten wagons and one milch cow started from St. Louis for the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming and returned in the fall. In 1832 Nathaniel I. Wyeth went over the same road to Oregon. Their route was up the valley of the Little Blue and Platte rivers and made the beginning of the Oregon trail which for the next forty years was the greatest wagon road the world has seen. Other trails across Nebraska were the California trail, starting from Bellevue or Omaha and traveling up the north bank of Platte; the Denver trail from the Missouri River to Denver and the "Steam Wagon Road" or Nebraska City cut-off from Nebraska

City up the West Blue to the Platte and on to Denver. These trails were traveled by thousands of wagons every year until the construction of the Pacific Railroad.

The Steamboat Years—The Western Engineer which brought Major Long's party on its exploring expedition in September, 1819, was the first steam vessel to navigate Nebraska waters. Other steamboats took part in the Aricara Expedition in 1823. In 1832 the steamboat Yellowstone began the first regular annual fur-trading voyages up the Missouri River, stopping at points on the Nebraska coast. From 1850 to 1860 steamboat navigation along the Nebraska shores was at its height, forty or fifty different steamboats being in the Missouri River trade. With the construction of railroads the steamboat business rapidly fell off until now only a few ferry-boats and one or two steamboats a year navigate the Missouri along the Nebraska shores.

Nebraska from 1830 to 1854—Frontier conditions of the most rugged nature ruled in Nebraska between these years. A few steamboats plied the Missouri River between St. Louis and the head of navigation. The overland trails from the Missouri River to the mountains and Pacific coast were traveled by caravans of emigrants and freighting wagons each summer. A little group of Christian missionaries and teachers were laboring among the Nebraska Indians. A few white fur traders and buffalo hunters followed the streams and crossed the prairies. Fort Kearney on the Platte River opposite the present City of Kearney and Bellevue on the Missouri River were the only two white settlements of any size within the present state. The dominant figures in the Nebraska landscape were the buffalo, the coyote, the prairie dog and the Indian.

Nebraska Name and Organization—The name "Nebraska" first appears in literature about the year 1842. Lieut. John C. Fremont explored the plains and mountains in that year. His reports speak of the "Nebraska River," the Otoe Indian name for the Platte from the Otoe word "Ne-brathka," meaning "Flat Waters." Secretary of War William Wilkins, in his report of November 30, 1844, says: "The Platte or Nebraska River, being the central stream, would very properly furnish a name to the (proposed) territory." The first bill to organize the new Nebraska territory was introduced in Congress December 17, 1844, by Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois. This bill failed to pass. In 1848 Douglas introduced a second bill which also failed. In 1853 a third bill was likewise defeated. In 1854 a fourth Nebraska bill now called the "Nebraska-Kansas bill" was passed after a long and bitter struggle and signed by Franklin Pierce on May 30, 1854. This prolonged struggle between the slave states and the free states for dominance in the Nebraska region led to the organization of the new republican party and the border conflicts which hastened the Civil war.

Nebraska from 1867 to 1875—This is the formative period of the new state. Among its principal events were the relocation of the capital at Lincoln July 29, 1867, the impeachment of Gov. David Butler in 1871, the first period of railway construction, including the completion of the Pacific Railroad to the ocean and the entrance of Burlington and Northwestern railroads into the region, the hard times and grasshopper period beginning in 1874, the establishment of the State University and Agricultural College, February 15, 1869, and the first great wave of homesteading immigrants who settled most of the desirable land in the eastern half of the state and sent adventurous pioneers into the remotest parts.

Farmers' Alliance Origin, etc.—This period (1875 to 1890) is marked by the complete settlement of all parts of this state except a few

million acres of sand hills; by a rising demand for railroad regulation and political conflicts with the railroad companies; by the removal of the Sioux, Pawnee, Ponca and Otoe Indians from their old Nebraska homes to new locations in Oklahoma and South Dakota; by continuing conflicts between the Grangers and the cattlemen for possession of the land, in western Nebraska; by the beginnings of the world-wide struggle between organized capital and organized wage-earners exemplified by strikes in the City of Omaha in 1882, and the great Burlington strike of 1888, and finally by the organization of the Farmers' Alliance, its entrance into the political field, first victory in the election of 1890 and the social revolution which has followed.

Nebraska's Capitol Buildings—Nebraska has had four capitol buildings, two of which were constructed during the territorial period and two during the state period. The first territorial capitol building was constructed in Omaha by Iowa men and by Iowa money. This building was a two-story brick structure and was "thirty-three by seventy-five feet and cost about \$3,000." This building was a temporary makeshift to be soon superseded by a more elegant and commodious structure, also located in Omaha, and erected in part by an appropriation of \$50,000 from the Federal Government and in part by municipal grant of \$60,000 from the City of Omaha. The dimensions of this second territorial capitol building were as follows: "Extreme length 137 feet; extreme width 93 feet; height sixty-two and one-half feet."

THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS

On page 6, of the Nebraska Blue Book for 1915 is found the following concerning the capitol buildings:

Throughout the territorial period there was constant agitation for the removal of the seat of government from Omaha to some other point in the territory. This purpose was finally effected in the passage of the removal act approved June 14, 1867. The new capital city was to be named Lincoln. July 29, 1867, the new site was chosen. October 10, 1867, plans for the new capitol building were submitted and those of John Morris of Chicago were adopted. The building to be immediately erected was 120 feet in length by 50 in width; height to top of cupola, 120 feet. The cost of this building was \$75,817.59, which amount was derived from the sale of lots in Lincoln. This building was so poorly constructed that it began to show signs of decay as early as in 1871. A severe storm in May, 1873, so damaged the capitol that it was necessary to expend \$5,897 in repairs. Gov. Silas Garber in his retiring address to the legislature in 1879, said: "For sometime past the outer walls of the capitol have been considered unsafe. * * * the time is not far distant, however, when steps should be taken for the erection of a new State House of adequate proportions." The legislature of 1879 appropriated \$75,000 to begin the construction of the west wing of a new capitol building. The architect was William H. Wilcox and the contractor W. H. B. Stout. The total cost for building and furnishing the west wing was \$83,178.81. This work was begun in 1879 and finished at the close of 1881. The 1881 legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the construction of the east wing of the capitol and retained the same architect. Contractor Stout also built this wing. The total cost of building and furnishing the east wing was \$108,247.92. It was legally accepted December 1, 1882.

For the construction of the central portion of the new capitol the legislature of 1883 and that of 1885 authorized a levy of one-half a mill on the grand assessment roll for the years 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886. W. H. B. Stout obtained the contract for the erection of the central portion of the building at the price of \$439,187.25. The 1887 legislature authorized a levy of three-fourths of a mill for the years 1887 and 1888 to complete the capitol building. The same session of the legislature made provision for the sale of all unsold lots and lands in the City of Lincoln belonging to the state for the use of the capitol building fund. This amounted to about \$78,870. The total cost of the present capitol building was \$691,429.

STATE SEAL

A bill introduced by Isaac Wiles of Cass County, on May 31, and approved June 15, 1867, appropriated \$25 to be used by the Secretary of State for the securing of a State Seal which was thus described in the act: "The eastern part of the circle to be represented by a steamboat ascending the Missouri River; the mechanics arts to be represented by a smith with a hammer and anvil; in the foreground agriculture to be represented by a settlers cabin, sheaves of wheat and stalks of growing corn; in the back-ground a train of cars headed towards the Rocky Mountains and on the extreme west the Rocky Mountains to be plainly in view; around the top of this circle to be in capital letters the motto 'Equality before the law' and the circle to be surrounded by the words 'Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, March 1, 1867.'"

NEBRASKA STATE FLOWER

A joint resolution introduced by Representative L. P. Judd of Boone County and approved April 4, 1895, designates the Golden Rod (*Solidago serotiana*) as the floral emblem of the state.

The following poem on this almost universal wild weed or flower is indeed apropos in this connection:

Oh, Erin has her shamrock green, and England has her rose.
 In Bonnie Scotland's misty glen, the purple thistle grows.
 The Jung Frau wears the Edelweiss upon her snowy breast,
 And France for centuries has borne the lily in her crest.
 The Cornflower on the castled Rhine, in azure beauty blooms.
 The heavy-headed lotus nods among Egyptian tombs,
 But in the land of liberty a yellow blossom springs
 And with its beauty dims the gold upon the head of kings.
 It brightens every dusty road and every barren field,
 It needs no care to sow its seed or make its blossom yield.
 The "Nation's Flower"—it only grows in Freedom's sacred sod—
 Aye proudly waves in Freedom's cap the—FEATHERY GOLDEN ROD.

VEGETATION

Concerning the vegetation growing within Nebraska, possibly no more concise statement has been made than that from the pen of Professor Bessey, who had charge of the botany of the University of Nebraska many years. In his writings are found these paragraphs:

The natural vegetation of Nebraska shows it to be emphatically that of the Great Plains, and thus differs much from that of the forests to

the eastward and the mountains lying westward. To say that the eastern botanist notes the absence of many a familiar plant signifies nothing, since this must always be the case in comparing the flora of one region with that of another. The flora of the plains differs in many respects from that of New York and New England, but the eastern botanist must not unduly magnify the importance to be attached to the fact that he does not find here many of the plants he knew in childhood days. The plains have their own plants which will eventually be as dear to the men and women who gathered them in childhood as are the old favorites to the New Englander transplanted to the West.

A study of the vegetation of Nebraska shows it to possess some remarkably interesting features. The wild plants of the state are very largely immigrants from surrounding regions. By far the greater number have come from the prairies and forests lying adjacent on the east and southeast by creeping up the rivers and streams, or in case of herbaceous plants blowing overland without regard for the water courses. Thus of the 141 trees and shrubs which grow naturally within the state all but about twenty-five have migrated from the east in nearly all cases following the streams. Of these twenty-five four or five may be considered strictly endemic the remainder having come down from the mountains.

A careful study of the plants of the eastern part of the state shows that many species are confined to limited areas in Richardson and the adjoining counties and that the number of species with marked regularity as we ascend the Missouri River. The same general law is seen as we ascend the three great rivers—the Republican, Platte and Niobrara—which cross the state from west to east. On the other hand as we ascend the streams we meet here and there a mountain plant which is wandering eastward down the slope from an elevation of a mile above sea-level in the western counties to less than a thousand feet along the Missouri River. Thus the buffalo berry, the golden currant, low sumach, the dwarf wild cherry and yellow pine have traveled half way or two-thirds across the plains; while the creeping barberry, black cottonwood, Rydberg's cottonwood, mountain maple, mountain mahogany and sage brush barley enter the western counties not extending eastward of the Wyoming line more than a few miles. A few species of wild roses, the sand cherry and perhaps the sand plum seem to belong strictly to the plains.

Wherever we go we find upon the plains a similar commingling of eastern and western species. Every mile one advances westward brings to view plants not hitherto seen while at the same time there is left behind some familiar species.

Nebraska affords one of the finest illustrations of the commingling of contiguous floras to be found anywhere in America. Not a few of the species in the southern half of the state have come up from the plains of the southwest, some even coming from Texas and New Mexico. Others again appear to have migrated from the great northern plains of the Dakotas while here again there are endemic species as the buffalo grasses, Redfield's grass, false buffalo grass and many more.

Through the untiring efforts of the members of the botanical seminar of the University of Nebraska, there are now known fully 3,300 species representing every branch and nearly every class of the vegetable kingdom.

There are sixty-four species of native trees in the state. There is, however, no place in the state where all of these species grow together.

No county contains sixty-four kinds of native trees. Thus there are nineteen species of trees in the northwestern quarter of the state, twenty-seven in the northeastern, fifteen in the southwestern and fifty in the southeastern.

A close study of the distribution of the trees shows that nearly all have probably migrated to the plains from the east. They have in some cases done more than get a little foothold in the extreme southeastern counties to which they have come from the heavy forests of Missouri. A few have doubtless crossed the Missouri River from western Iowa, although this number is evidently small. Nearly all have come up from the Missouri bottoms and spread from the southeastern corner of the state west and northwest. Possibly a few may have come up the Blue River from Kansas, but these must eventually be traced to the Missouri River bottoms at the mouth of the Kansas River.

The trees and shrubs which are found only in the western part of the state unquestionably came from the Rocky Mountains and have spread eastward to their present limits. Only one of these, the buffalo berry, has spread itself over the entire state. There is a probability that a further examination of the bluffs of the Niobrara, Platte, and Republican rivers will show several more of the Rocky Mountain plants, which have come down with the river currents. It is singular that so few of the western trees and shrubs have come down the streams, especially as prevailing winds are also from the westerly parts toward the east. It would naturally be supposed that it would be easier for western trees to come down stream with the wind, than for the elms, ashes, plums, etc., to have gone up the streams against the prevailing winds.

TREES OF NEBRASKA

Among the more important trees found growing in Nebraska soil are the following:

Yellow or Bull Pine, Red Cedar, Black Cottonwood, Rydberg's Cottonwood, Cottonwood, Basswood, White Elm, Red Elm, Hackberry, Plane Tree, Mountain Maple, Silver Maple, Box Elder or Ash Leaved Maple, Butternut, Blackwalnut, Shellbark Hickory, Big Hickory Nut, Bitter Hickory, White Oak, Burr Oak, Red Oak, Ironwood, Canoe Birch, Choke Cherry, Wild Black Cherry, Wild Plum, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Honey Locust, White Ash, Red Ash, Green Ash.

GRASSES FOUND IN NEBRASKA

Many plants are commonly called grasses which are not grasses at all. Many people speak of clover and alfalfa as grasses because they are made into hay for stock just as many of the real grasses are. So, too, many of our weeds are called grasses, as rib-grass, knot-grass, etc., when they are not at all related to the proper grasses. On the other hand many true grasses are commonly kept separate from them under the impression they are a very different plant. Thus many people do not think of common field corn as a grass and yet it is in every way a true grass, although a very large one. So, too, wheat, oats, rye, barley, are really grasses, although we rarely hear them spoken of as such.

A grass is a plant with narrow elongated leaves which are in two ranks upon the jointed, usually hollow, stem. The leaves end below in open sheathes which wrap around the stem for a greater or less distance. The flowers are chaffy and are never colored or conspicuous;

they are often in loose heads (panicles as in blue grass and oats) or in spikes (as in timothy and wheat). Some live for but a single season (annuals), while others live for many years (perennials).

In the whole world there are about 3,500 species of grass and of this vast number 154 have been recorded as growing wild or under common cultivation in Nebraska. Probably there is no place in the state in which there are not from fifty to seventy-five kinds of grasses and in some places doubtless there are more than 100.

It is unnecessary to take up all the grasses of Nebraska, but the following wild and cultivated species should be known:

Maize or Indian corn, of which there are these—the Dent type, the Flint type, the Pop-Corn type, the Soft Corn type, the Sweet Corn type.



NEBRASKA SHEEP

The Big Blue Stem, the Switch grass, Barnyard grass, Green Fox Tail, Millet or Hungarian grass, Yellow Fox Tail, Indian Rice, Wild Ribbon, Muhlenberg's grass, Timothy, Red Top, Oats, corn grass, Blue Grama, Black Grama, Tall Grama, Buffalo grass, Reed grass, Salt grass, Orchard grass, Kentucky Blue grass, Wheat grass, Rye, Wheat, Barley, Wild Rue.

Other forage plants are Red Clover, White Clover, Alfalfa and the native Sedges.

WILD FLOWERS OF NEBRASKA

More than 300 beautiful wild flowers are found growing in Nebraska soil, but not all in any one locality. The more important of these wild flowers which were indeed beautiful to behold by the eye of the first pioneers of the state are as follows:

The Lilies, Orchids, Buttercups, Water Lilies, Poppies, Capers, Violets, Mallows, Cactuses, Mentzelias, Evening Primroses, the Roses, Lupines, Prairie Clovers, Morning Glories, Gilias, Pentstemons, Verbenas, Sunflowers, Asters, Golden Rods.

GOVERNORS OF NEBRASKA

From the date of organization of Nebraska as a state until the present time the governors have been as follows:

David Butler, 1867 to 1870—impeached and succeeded by W. H. James (secretary of state) until the inauguration of Governor Furnas, he from 1873-75.

Silas Garber, 1875-79.
 Albinus Nance, 1879-83.
 James W. Dawes, 1883-87.
 John M. Thayer, 1887-91.
 James E. Boyd, 1891-93.
 Lorenzo Crounse, 1893-95.
 Silas A. Holcomb, 1895-99.
 William A. Poynter, 1889-1901.
 Charles H. Dietrich, 1901.

Ezra P. Savage, 1901-03.
 John H. Mickey, 1903-07.
 George L. Sheldon, 1907-09.
 Ashton C. Shallenberger, 1909-11.
 Chester H. Aldrich, 1911-13.
 John H. Morehead, 1913-17.
 Keith Neville, 1917-19.
 Samuel R. McKelvie, 1919-21.

ABSTRACT OF COUNTIES

The following is a list of counties, together with their population, name of county seat and area:

County		Popula-		County		Popula-	
Name	Seat	Area	tion	Name	Seat	Area	tion
Adams, Hastings....	567	29,000		Gosper, Elwood....	464	4,938	
Antelope, Neligh....	872	14,003		Grant, Hyannis....	726	1,097	
Arthur, Arthur....	810	1,200		Greeley, Greeley....	571	8,047	
Banner, Harrisburg....	752	14,044		Hall, Grand Island....	528	20,361	
Blaine, Brewster....	811	1,672		Hamilton, Aurora....	538	13,459	
Boone, Albion....	692	13,145		Harlan, Alma....	574	9,578	
Box Butte, Alliance....	1,076	6,131		Hayes, Hayes Center....	732	3,011	
Boyd, Butte....	535	8,826		Hitchcock, Trenton....	724	5,415	
Brown, Ainsworth....	1,235	6,083		Holt, O'Neill....	2,393	15,545	
Buffalo, Kearney....	954	21,906		Hooker, Mullen....	722	981	
Burt, Tekamah....	475	12,726		Howard, St. Paul....	561	10,783	
Butler, David City....	583	15,403		Jefferson, Fairbury....	578	16,852	
Cass, Plattsmouth....	538	19,786		Johnson, Tecumseh....	374	10,187	
Cedar, Harrington....	735	15,191		Kearney, Minden....	516	9,106	
Chase, Imperial....	899	3,631		Keith, Ogallala....	1,068	3,692	
Cherry, Valentine....	5,979	10,414		Keya Paha, Springview....	775	3,452	
Cheyenne, Sidney....	1,194	4,551		Kimball, Kimball....	958	1,942	
Clay, Clay Center....	579	15,729		Knox, Center....	1,114	18,358	
Colfax, Schuyler....	405	11,610		Lancaster, Lincoln....	853	73,793	
Cuming, West Point....	577	13,782		Lincoln, North Platte....	2,536	15,684	
Custer, Broken Bow....	2,588	25,668		Logan, Gandy....	573	1,521	
Dakota, Dakota City....	253	6,564		Loup, Taylor....	576	2,188	
Dawes, Chadron....	1,402	8,254		Madison, Madison....	576	19,101	
Deuel, Chappell....	439	1,786		McPherson, Tryon....	864	1,270	
Dawson, Lexington....	985	15,961		Merrick, Central City....	462	10,379	
Dixon, Ponca....	472	11,477		Morrill, Bridgeport....	1,417	4,584	
Dodge, Fremont....	531	22,145		Nance, Fullerton....	446	8,926	
Douglas, Omaha....	331	168,546		Nemaha, Auburn....	389	13,095	
Dundy, Benkleman....	927	4,098		Nuckolls, Nelson....	579	13,019	
Fillmore, Geneva....	576	14,674		Otoe, Nebraska City....	606	19,323	
Franklin, Bloomington....	578	10,303		Pawnee, Pawnee City....	431	10,582	
Frontier, Stockville....	975	8,572		Perkins, Grant....	886	2,570	
Furnas, Beaver City....	721	12,083		Phelps, Holdridge....	538	10,451	
Gage, Beatrice....	862	30,325		Pierce, Pierce....	577	10,122	
Garden, Oshkosh....	1,652	2,538		Platte, Columbus....	673	19,006	
Garfield, Burwell....	575	3,417		Polk, Osceola....	430	10,521	

County		County					
Name	Seat	Area	tion	Name	Seat	Area	tion
Red Willow, McCook	720	11,056		Stanton, Stanton	431	7,542	
Richardson, Falls City	545	17,444		Thayer, Hebron	516	14,775	
Rock, Bassett	1,004	3,627		Thomas, Thedford	716	1,191	
Saline, Wilber	573	17,866		Thurston, Pender	387	8,704	
Sarpy, Papillion	239	9,274		Valley, Ord	570	9,480	
Saunders, Wahoo	756	21,179		Washington, Blair	380	12,738	
Scotts Bluff, Gering	723	8,355		Wayne, Wayne	450	10,397	
Seward, Seward	574	15,895		Webster, Red Cloud	578	12,008	
Sheridan, Rushville	2,469	7,328		Wheeler, Bartlett	578	2,292	
Sherman, Loup City	573	8,278		York, York	575	18,721	
Sioux, Harrison	2,055	5,599					

LAST ROMANTIC BUFFALO HUNT

In a collection of reminiscences published on Nebraska history by the Nebraska Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1916 the author of this volume takes the liberty to quote the story of the "Last Romantic Buffalo Hunt on the Plains of Nebraska," by John L. Webster, of Omaha:

In the autumn of 1872 a group of men, some of whom were then prominent in Nebraska history, Judge Elmer S. Dundy and a Col. Watson B. Smith, and one who afterward achieved national fame as an American explorer, Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, and another who has since become known throughout Europe and America as a picturesque character and showman, Col. William F. Cody, participated in what proved to be the last romantic buffalo hunt upon the western plains of the State of Nebraska.

Elmer S. Dundy was a pioneer who had come to Nebraska in 1857. He had been a member of the Territorial Legislature for two successive terms; he was appointed a Territorial judge in 1863 and became the first United States district judge after the admission of the state into the Union. Col. Watson B. Smith at that time held the office of clerk of the United States District and Circuit courts for the District of Nebraska. Some years afterward he met a tragic death by being shot (accidentally or by assassination) in the corridors of the Federal Building in the City of Omaha. Colonel Smith was a loveable man of the highest unimpeachable integrity and a most efficient public officer. There was also among the number James Neville, who at that time held the office of United States attorney and who afterward became a judge of the District Court of Douglas County. He added zest, vim and spirit by reason of some personal peculiarities to be mentioned later on.

These men with the writer of this sketch were anxious to have the experience and the enjoyment of the stimulating excitement of participating in a buffalo hunt before those native wild animals of the plains should become entirely extinct. To them it was to be a romantic incident in their lives and long to be remembered as an event of pioneer days. They enjoyed the luxury of a Pullman car from Omaha to North Platte, which at that time was little more than a railway station and a division point upon the Union Pacific and where was also located a military post occupied by a battalion of United States cavalry.

Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, a regular army officer and an American explorer, at one time commanded an Arctic expedition in search of Doctor Franklin, and who had command of an extended exploring expedition of

the Yukon River. At another time he commanded an expedition into the northernmost regions of Alaska in the interest of the New York Times. He also became a writer and the author of three quite well-known books: "Along Alaska's Great River," "Nimrod in the North" and "Children of the Cold."

At the time of which we are speaking Lieutenant Schwatka was stationed at the military post at North Platte. He furnished us with the necessary army horses and equipment for the hunting expedition and he himself went along in command of a squad of cavalry which acted as an escort to protect us if need be when we should get into the frontier regions where the Indians were at times still engaged in the quest of game and sometimes in unfriendly raids.

William F. Cody, familiarly known as "Buffalo Bill" who already achieved a reputation as a guide and hunter and who has since won a world reputation as a showman, went along with us as courier and chief hunter. He went on similar expeditions into the wilder regions of Wyoming with Gen. Phil Sheridan, the Grand Duke Alexis and others quite equally celebrated.

This Omaha group of amateur buffalo hunters led by Buffalo Bill and escorted by Lieutenant Schwatka and his squad of cavalry rode on the afternoon of the first day from North Platte to Fort McPherson and there camped for the night with the bare earth and a blanket for a bed and a small army tent for shelter and cover.

On the next morning after a rude army breakfast, eaten while we sat about on the ground and without the luxury of a bath or change of wearing apparel, this cavalcade renewed its journey in a southwesterly direction, expecting ultimately to reach the valley of the Republican. We consumed the entire day in traveling over what seemed almost a barren waste of undulating prairie except where here and there it was broken by higher upland and now and then crossed by a ravine and occasionally by a small stream of running water along the banks of which might be found a small growth of timber. The visible area of the landscape was so great that it seemed boundless—an immense wilderness of space and the altitude added to the invigorating and stimulating effect of the atmosphere.

We amateurs were constantly in anticipation of seeing either wild animals or Indians that might add to the spirit and zest of the expedition. There were no habitations, no fields, no farms. There was the vast expanse of plain in front of us ascending gradually westward toward the mountains with the blue sky and sunshine overhead. I do not recollect of seeing more than one little cabin or one little pioneer ranch during that whole day's ride. I do know as the afternoon wore on those of us who were amateur horsemen were pleased to take our turns as opportunity afforded of riding in the army wagon which carried our supplies and leading our horses.

When the shades of night of the second day had come we had seen many antelope and now and then heard the cry of coyote and the prairie wolf but we had not seen any sign of buffalo, but we did receive information from some cattlemen or plain wanderers that there was a band of roving Indians in that vicinity which created within us a feeling of some anxiety—not so much for our personal safety as that our horses might be stolen and we left in these remote regions without the necessary facilities for traveling homeward.

Our camp was made for the night upon a spot of low ground near the bank of a small creek which was bordered by hills on either side and

sheltered by a small grove of timber near at hand. The surrounding hills would cut off the sight of the evening camp-fires and the timber would obscure the ascending columns of smoke as they spread into space through the branches of the trees.

The horses were picketed near the camp around the commissary wagon and Lieutenant Schwatka placed the cavalrymen on sentinel duty. The night was spent with some restlessness and sleep was somewhat disturbed in anticipation of a possible danger and I believe that all of us rather anxiously awaited the coming of the morning with the eastern sunlight that we might be restored to that feeling of security that would come with freedom of action and the opportunity for "preparedness." When morning did come we had the pleasure of greeting each other with pleasant smiles and a feeling of happy contentment. We had not been molested by the Indians and our military sentinels had not seen them.

On the afternoon of the third day of our march into the wilderness we reached the farther margin of a high upland of the rim of a plain where we had an opportunity of looking down over a large area of bottom land covered by vegetation and where there appeared to be signs of water. From this point of vantage we discovered a small herd of browsing buffalo but so far away from us as to be beyond rifle range. These animals were apparently so far away from civilization or human habitation of any kind that their animal instinct gave them a feeling of safety and security. We well knew that these animals could scent the approach of men and horses even when beyond the line of vision. We must study the currents of the air and plan our maneuvers with the utmost caution if we expected to be able to approach within any reasonable distance without being first discovered by them.

We entrusted ourselves to the guidance of Buffalo Bill, whose experience added to his good judgment, and so skillfully did he conduct our maneuvers around the hills and up and down ravines that within an hour we were within a reasonable distance of the wild animals before they discovered us and then the chase began. It was a part of the plan that we should surround them, but we were prudently cautioned by Mr. Cody that a buffalo could run faster for a short distance than our horses. Therefore we must keep far enough away so that if the buffalo should come toward any of us we could immediately turn and flee in the opposite direction as fast as our horses could carry us.

I must stop for a moment to relate a romantic incident which made this buffalo chase especially picturesque and amusing. Judge Neville had been in the habit of wearing in Omaha a high silk hat and a full-dress coat (in common parlance a spiketail). He started out on this expedition wearing this suit of clothes and without any change of garments to wear on the hunt. So it came about that when this group of amateur buffalo huntsmen went riding pell-mell over the prairies after the buffalo and likewise when pursued by them in turn, Judge Neville set astride his running warhorse wearing his high silk hat and the long flaps of his spike-tailed coat floating out behind him on the breeze as if waving a farewell adieu to all his companions. He presented a picture against the horizon that does not have its parallel in all pioneer history.

It was entirely impossible for us inexperienced buffalo hunters while riding galloping horses across the plains to fire our rifles with any degree of accuracy. Suffice it to say we did not succeed in shooting any buffalo and I don't now even know that we tried to do so. We were too much taken up with the excitement of the chase and of being chased in turn. At one time we were the pursuers and at another time we were being

pursued, but the excitement was so intense that there was no limit to our enjoyment and enthusiasm.

Buffalo Bill furnished us the unusual and soul-stirring amusement of that afternoon. He took it upon himself individually to lasso the largest bull buffalo of the herd while the rest of us did but little more than to direct the course of the flight of these wild animals or perhaps more correctly expressed—to keep out of their way. It did not take Buffalo Bill very long to lasso the large bull buffalo, as his fleet blooded horse circled around the startled wild animal. When evening came we left the lassoed buffalo out on the plains solitary and alone, lariated to a stake driven into the ground so firmly that we felt quite sure that he could not escape. It is my impression that we captured a young buffalo out of the small herd which we placed in a corral found in that vicinity.



BUFFALO

On the following morning we went out upon the plains to get the lassoed buffalo and found that in his efforts to break away he had broken one of his legs. We were confronted with a question whether we should let the animal loose upon the prairies in his crippled condition or whether it would be a more merciful thing to shoot him and put him out of his pain and suffering. Buffalo Bill solved the vexatious problem by concluding to lead the crippled animal over to the ranchman's house and there he obtained such instruments as he could, including a butcher knife, a hand-saw and a bar of iron. He amputated the limb of the buffalo above the point of the break in the bone and seared it over with a hot iron to close the artery and prevent the animal from bleeding to death. The surgical operation thus rudely performed upon this big, robust wild animal of the prairies, seemed to be quite well and successfully performed. The buffalo was then left in the ranchman's corral with the understanding that the animal should be well cared for, watered and fed.

We were now quite away from civilization and near the Colorado border line and notwithstanding our subsequent riding over the hills

and uplands during the following day we did not discover another buffalo and those which had gotten away from us on the preceding day could not be found. During that day we turned northward and I can remember that about noon we came to a cattleman's ranch, where for the first time since our start on the journey, we sat down to a wooden table in a log cabin for our noonday meal. During the afternoon we traveled northward as rapidly as our horses could carry us, but night came on when we were twenty miles or more southwest of Fort McPherson, and we found it again necessary to go into camp for the night, sleeping in the little army tents which we carried along with us in the commissary wagon.

Colonel Cody had on this journey been riding his own private horse—a beautiful animal capable of great speed. I can remember quite well that Mr. Cody said that he never slept out at night when within twenty miles of his own home. He declined to go into camp with us but turned his horse to the northward and gave him the full rein and started off at a rapid gallop over the plains, expecting to reach his home before the hour of midnight. It seemed to us that it would be a dreary, lonesome and perilous ride over the solitude of that waste of country without roads, without lights, without signboard or guides, but Buffalo Bill said he knew the direction from the stars and that he would trust his good horse to safely carry him over depressions and ravines notwithstanding the darkness of the night. So on he sped northward toward his home.

On the next day we amateur buffalo hunters rode on to Fort McPherson and thence to North Platte, where we returned our army horses to the military post with a debt of gratitude to Lieutenant Schwatka, who at all times had been generous, courteous and polite to us as well as an interesting social companion.

So ended the last romantic and rather unsuccessful buffalo hunt over the western plains of the State of Nebraska—a region then desolate, arid, barren and almost totally uninhabited, but today a wealthy and productive part of our state.

The story of the buffalo hunt in and of itself is not an incident of much importance but it furnishes the material for a most remarkable contrast of development within the period of a generation. The wild buffalo has gone. The aboriginal red man of the plains has disappeared, the white man with the new civilization has stepped into their places. It all seems to have been a part of Nature's great plan. Out of the desolation of the past there has come the new life with the new civilization just as new worlds and their satellites have been created out of the dust of dead worlds.

There was a glory of the wilderness but it has gone. There was a mystery that haunted all those barren plains but that too has gone. Now there are fields and houses and schools and groves of forest trees and villages and towns all prosperous under the same warm sunshine as of a generation ago when the buffalo grazed on the meadow lands and the aboriginal Indians hunted over the plains.

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CHAPTER II

DISCOVERY AND OCCUPANCY BY WHITE MEN

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE—OTHER VIEWS OF THE “PURCHASE”—THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE AFFAIR—THE NAME “NEBRASKA”—TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION—ADMITTED AS A STATE—THE CONSTITUTIONS—EARLY EXPLOITATIONS—FUR TRADERS—GREAT EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS—MORMON ADVENT—GOLD HUNTERS’ PANIC, 1849.

The purchase of the vast region from the French under Napoleon for \$15,000,000 was admired, not so much for its agricultural and mineral wealth as for its value in obtaining the right to establish our own western frontier clear through to the sea on the west.

Between 1785 and 1789, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, at the court of France, negotiated the “Louisiana Purchase” from Napoleon Bonaparte, the same being completed in 1803 at a cost of 2 3/5 cents per acre. The aggregate amount paid for this new empire was \$15,000,000. Of this purchase price France received in United States bonds \$11,250,000 and by the agreement the remaining \$3,700,000 was paid to American citizens in liquidation of claims against the French government. When the United States took possession of these lands on December 20, 1803, the Union consisted of but seventeen states—Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North and South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and Vermont. The total acreage of these states amounted to 444,000 square miles. This amounted to 384,411,520 acres, but Mr. Jefferson’s purchase of contiguous territory covered 890,921 square miles, including both land and water surface amounting to 878,641 square miles, and it lacked but little of being twice as large and certainly contained twice the value of the seventeen states enumerated. This territory comprised about one-fourth of the area of the republic of the United States of America.

From this vast purchase of territory adjacent to the previous holdings of the republic have been created twelve great states, namely: Louisiana in 1812; Missouri in 1821; Arkansas in 1836; Iowa in 1846; Minnesota in 1858; Kansas in 1861; Nebraska in 1867; Colorado in 1876; Montana in 1889; South Dakota in 1889; North Dakota in 1889; Wyoming in 1890. The estimated population of the land ceded by Napoleon in 1803 was 50,000 whites and 40,000 slaves and 2,000 free blacks. More than four-fifths of the whites and all of the blacks, except about 1,300, were in and adjacent to New Orleans. The rest were scattered throughout the country now included in Arkansas and Missouri. The population of the “Louisiana Purchase” is now over 15,000,000, or was in 1890, and if as densely settled as Belgium, which has 536 human beings to the square mile, it would contain and maintain about 474,000,000 people. Historian Rhoades remarks: “The possession of the mouth of the Mississippi River was a commercial necessity, and Thomas Jefferson showed wisdom in promptly seizing the opportunity presented by a fortunate combination of circumstances to receive the magnificent purchase of this rich domain.”

The statesmen of the South opposed the "Purchase," as did parts of New England. A Massachusetts politician said: "I consider Louisiana the grave of this Union." Even so great a political figure as Governor Morris contracted his usually clear vision to this: "Among other objections they (the Western States) would not be able to furnish men equally intelligent to share in the administration of our common interests. The busy haunts of men, nor the remote wilderness, is the proper school of political talents. If the western people got the power in their hands they will run the Atlantic's interests."

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE PURCHASE

An early writer on Nebraska history has said: "A vast unexplored almost illimitable empire was ours; perpetual immunity from dangerous neighbors; sole possessor of this river of rivers, with all of its tributaries; a sure dominating influence in the affairs of the North American continent; national opportunities for the future almost depressing in their sublimity."

The first governor of Louisiana Purchase was Gen. James Wilkinson. He was untrue to his country and like Aaron Burr was tried for treason, though acquitted. Captain Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, was appointed governor to succeed Governor Wilkinson, in 1807. He it was who concluded a treaty with the Osage Indians for the cession of 48,000,000 acres of land extending from Fort Clark, thirty-five miles below the mouth of the Kansas River, due south to the Arkansas and along that stream to the Mississippi. The Sacs and Foxes sold 3,000,000 acres in 1804. In 1803 this tribe and the Iowas claimed all the State of Missouri, as well as the northwest quarter of Illinois and a part of southern Wisconsin. In 1810 Howard succeeded Governor Lewis. In 1810 the population of the territory was 20,000 and had pushed its way along a strip from fifteen to twenty miles wide from Arkansas River to a point not far above the mouth of the Missouri River and had necessitated treaties with the Indians. "Louisiana," by act of Congress June 4, 1812, became the Territory of Missouri, and its government was advanced to the second grade, same as other portions of the Great Northwest Territory. This act provided for a government headed with a governor appointed by the President, a House of Representatives elected by the people and a legislative council of nine members appointed by the President. Governor Howard divided its settled portion into five counties by proclamation, and for several months Frederick Bates served as its governor until William Clark (of Lewis and Clark expedition fame) was appointed in 1813. He held the office until Missouri became a state in 1821, and afterwards was superintendent of Indian affairs until his death.

In 1819 Arkansas Territory was carved from Missouri Territory. Up to 1834 that part of the original Louisiana Territory had no government, but by congressional act, June 30, 1834, one provision was: "All that portion of the United States west of the Mississippi River, not within the State of Missouri and Louisiana or the Territory of Arkansas, and also that part of the United States east of the Mississippi River in and not within any state to which the Indian title has not been extinguished for the purpose of this act, shall be taken and deemed to be 'Indian Country.'" This act also provided for a superintendent of Indian affairs, who resided at St. Louis, Missouri, and had a salary of \$1,500. He was provided with two agents.

By the congressional act of June 28, 1834, that part of the territory east of the Missouri River and White Earth River and north of the state line of Missouri, was "for purpose of temporary government attached to and made a part of Michigan." That part west of the Missouri River, which included present Nebraska, was left without government or political organization until the passage of the famous Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854.

THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE AFFAIR

The first direct controversy over slavery took place when John Taylor of New York, February, 1819, moved to amend the bill for the territorial organization of Arkansas by the same anti-slavery provision which Tallmadge sought to incorporate in the enabling act for the admission of Missouri as a state. It provided that no more slaves should be introduced into the territory and that all children born after admission should be free, though they might be held to service until twenty-five years of age. This started a fierce fight over the question of American slavery, which in the minds of far-seeing men could but end in disruption of the Union and Civil war, and which was only postponed by the three great Compromises—the last of which was the Nebraska Bill. Stephen A. Douglas was the pioneer projector of a territory organization for Nebraska. As early as 1844 he introduced a bill in the House of Representatives "to establish the Territory of Nebraska." The bill was twice read and offered to the committee on territories, from which it was not reported. In March, 1848, he introduced a bill of the same purport, which was recommitted on his own motion the following December, and, like its predecessors in the house, was pigeonholed by the committee. The boundaries of the bill of 1848 were as follows: "Commencing at a point in the Missouri River, where the 40th parallel of north latitude crosses the river; thence following up the main channel of said stream to the 43d parallel of north latitude; thence west on said parallel to the summit of the Rocky Mountains; thence due south to the 40th parallel of north latitude; thence east on said parallel to the place of beginning."

THE NAME NEBRASKA

From the time the region of the Platte Valley was known to white men till it was politically divided by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the name of the principal river was applied, roughly speaking, to the country between the watershed of the Platte and Arkansas rivers on the south and the forty-third parallel on the north, the Missouri River on the east and the Rocky Mountains on the west. It was known as the "NEBRASKA COUNTRY."

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

February 2, 1853, William A. Richardson, member of the House from Illinois, introduced House Bill No. 353 to "organize the Territory of Nebraska." This bill, which made no reference to slavery, passed the House February 10, 1853, by a vote of ninety-eight to forty-three. The northern boundary of the territory described in this bill was the forty-third parallel line, the present boundary of Nebraska on that side, its eastern limit was the west line of Missouri and Iowa, its southern

boundary the Territory of New Mexico and the parallel of 36 degrees and 30 minutes, and its western the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

It may be said that Louisiana Territory was conceived by the exigencies and on the threshold of a mighty international struggle which resulted in the annihilation of the greatest and most powerful potentates; and Nebraska, the child of Louisiana, was conceived by the exigencies and in the beginning of a great national struggle, in which the no less imperious power of human slavery was also to meet its doom.

When organized, "the summit of the Rocky Mountains" became the western boundary line of the vast territory. Just where the lawmakers believed the "summit" to be no one can but conjecture at this late day. But it is supposed to be where the waters of the great watershed fall toward the Pacific Ocean and others toward the eastern slope and to the waters of the Yellowstone and Missouri and their tributaries. The northeast boundary of the territory followed the Missouri River and the White Earth River to the British line. In February, 1861, Colorado Territory was created, taking a small piece from the southwestern corner of Nebraska. Two months later Dakota Territory was formed, which removed all the stretch of country north of the forty-third parallel. At the same time two tracts were added to Nebraska from Utah and Washington territories. The effect was to change the western boundary from the indefinite "summit" to the thirty-third meridian west from Washington. Nebraska Territory was four times as long as it was wide, stretching, in fact, about fifteen degrees of longitude. It so remained for about two years. In March, 1863, all west of the twenty-seventh meridian was taken away. Only one change in boundary has since been made. The original boundary of 1861 followed the Niobrara River and the Keya Paha to the forty-third parallel, which was the north boundary line. In 1882 Congress changed the boundary, so that it followed the Missouri River to the forty-third parallel, thus throwing the Niobrara River and ancient Ponca Indian lands entirely within Nebraska. (See Lewis and Clark's Government Reports, page 56.)

ADMITTED AS A STATE

Before the Territory of Nebraska was five years old, the matter of its being made into a state commenced to be discussed in political party circles. Governor Black's message to the Territorial Legislature in 1859 was largely along this line. That session of the Legislature provided for the election in March, 1860, to decide on statehood, but at that election the people favored the continuance of the territorial form of government. In February, 1864, Congress was asked by the Legislature to admit it as a state, and two months later went forth the petition for an "enabling act." Nothing came of this save the meeting of delegates to a convention at which nothing was accomplished. The Civil war was on and the Territorial Legislature did not further discuss this matter until in the session of 1866. This time it was not left to a constitutional convention to act, but the Legislature took action themselves, and through their committee one was drafted and submitted to the people for approval or rejection June 2 that year. The contest was close and at times very exciting. There were nearly 7,800 votes cast, and the measure carried for statehood by a mere 100 majority. It was made a party measure—the democratic party opposing the territory being made into a state and the republican party espousing the side of statehood, and won out by the rule of a "miss is as good as a mile."

From election time in June until early in 1867, Nebraska had both a territorial and state government. The authorities of the territory continued in office, and the Legislature, on January 10, 1867, met for its twelfth and last session. Meanwhile the new State Legislature had its first meeting July 4, 1866, and was called together again February 20, 1867, two days after the adjournment of the Territorial Legislature, to make good certain Federal requirements.

FIRST CONSTITUTION NOT SATISFACTORY

The Constitution of 1866 not proving satisfactory to a mass of the state's citizens, another convention was ordered by the eighth session of the Nebraska Legislature, and it was voted upon by the people September 19, 1871. This was also counted worthless and voted down. Among its provisions were these—taxation of church property; compulsory education, and one clause opposing and forbidding the aid to any railroad line within the state.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1875

October 12, 1875, the people finally adopted a constitution by a vote of 30,202 for and 5,474 against. This state constitution went into effect November 1, 1875. Since that date the people have sailed along with the remainder of the sisters of the Union, making a fair showing in all things that are for good government and progress.

EARLY EXPLORATIONS

Before completing the story of discovery and occupancy by the white race it will be well for the reader to peruse the following concerning some of the recorded accounts of early explorations, the entry of fur traders, etc.

There is a legend, partly backed by history proper, that the Spanish cavalier, Coronado, came up from Mexico with several hundred men looking for a supposed gold region, as early as 1541, and on his trip came as far northeast as the southern part of Nebraska. Whether that be simply romance of which the Spanish were so fond, or whether it was actually correct matters little to this generation, so long as they left no positive record of such an early expedition. The best historians of the western country agree that probably this Spaniard did come as far north as the Kansas-Nebraska line, and that it was several years before 1600. This was the same year that De Soto was wandering through Florida and on to the slopes of the Mississippi River. Henry III was then still on the English throne; Francis I held the throne of France, and Paul III was Pope at Rome. All Europe was in the midst of the Martin Luther Reformation. It was also then that the red man occupied this vast prairieland, and was entirely ignorant of his pale-faced brother, who was destined to finally occupy his extensive hunting grounds and cause him to be kept within a small "Reservation" for the betterment of "Christian Civilization."

In 1601 there was, as shown by actual record, an expedition by the Spaniards, taking about the same route claimed for that of Coronado. Then there is another account of an expedition in 1662, but the latter is not clear enough delineated to make it safe to go into history as correct.

However, it is certain that Father Marquette in 1673 floated down the Mississippi River and learned from the natives about the Missouri River; also about the Platte. He made a record in map form of this section of the west and it is believed that his was the first map of this portion of the western world.

In 1719 Dustine came across the country from the northeast and met tribes of Indians in the eastern part of what is now known as Kansas. This is significant of the coming of the French into the plains of the west. Twenty years later (1739) two brothers by the name of Mallet came into the North Platte region, exploring the river as far up as its forks.

THE FUR TRADERS

The first great commercial industry in the Northwest was that of the fur traders, by the French. As early as 1634 in Wisconsin this trade commenced. After England obtained possession of Canada, this fur-trading interest was followed by the British. This period was from 1763 to 1816, when Congress passed a law prohibiting foreigners from trading within the limits of the United States. The Americans commenced very early to compete with Great Britain, but the formation of the large companies of the United States commenced when John Jacob Astor chartered the American Fur Company. Two expeditions were sent out in 1810, one of which was by the way of the Missouri River. It was during that year that a trading post was set up at Bellevue, Nebraska. And even long before that barter in pelts and furs had been going on on the banks of the Missouri. Such trading was with the Indian tribes then living along the streams of what is now Nebraska. American explorers found traders on Nebraska soil soon after 1800, and the annual business in furs was very large. It is said that for forty years up to 1847 the annual value to St. Louis was from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

THE GREAT EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804 marked an era of progress for the new American Republic. Following this came the undertakings of Major Long in 1819 and that of the illustrious Pathfinder—Gen. John C. Fremont in 1842 and 1843. Among the travelers to Nebraska may be given these: Lewis and Clark, July 13 to September 5, 1804; August 31 to September 11, 1806. Thomas Nutall and John Bradbury, 1808 (botanical trip), Major Long, 1819-20; W. H. Ashley, 1822; Rev. Samuel Parker, 1835; I. N. Nicollet, 1838-39; Capt. John C. Fremont, 1842; Lieut. G. K. Warren, 1855-57.

The news spread throughout the east about this "beautiful, fertile country" and the chances to become wealthy by easy methods. Traders still got many furs and buffalo robes, missionaries came to bring the glad tidings of the Gospel to the Indians. One of the earliest missionaries within the borders of this state was Moses Merrill, who resided and preached among the Otoes from 1833 to 1840.

THE MORMON ADVENT

Among the interesting incidents of the early days in this state was the advent of the Mormons from Illinois in 1844. They had been driven from Missouri to Illinois and again established themselves and built an immense temple, but after a few years were driven out of the state,

crossed the State of Iowa and stopped on the west bank of the Missouri, a few miles above present Omaha, at Florence, then called "Winter-Quarters," for it was at that point the Mormons remained two years and then marched toward their "Promised Land" in Utah, and became the founders of Salt Lake City. The Mormons who halted at Winter-Quarters numbered about 15,000 souls, men, women and children. About one-half of this number in the spring of 1846 decided to separate themselves from the Brigham Young faction that believed in and practiced polygamy, and settled the southwestern counties in Iowa, being the pioneers of those counties. The other half of the Mormon body, with their famous hand-cart expedition, crossed the great plains of Nebraska. Such things as the country afforded for both food and shelter these strange religionists helped themselves to. For a city to spring up on the frontier in a month and have 15,000 population was indeed an unheard-of event in any part of the world. The land then belonged to the red men and the Government was compelled to stand by his rights. The Mormons had to move. Not a few of these Mormons, or, as they style themselves, "Latter Day Saints," located in different parts of Nebraska and Iowa, aside from the general settlement already named in southwestern Iowa counties. As late as 1857 they made a settlement at Genoa, now in the eastern part of Nance County. A hundred families received shares of the 1,000 acres which they enclosed and in a few years their colony was very prosperous. The Pawnee Indians, however, came to occupy the reservation assigned them by the Government. Wars came on between the Pawnee and Sioux tribes, so that six years after Genoa had been founded, they had to again disperse and hunt other homes, and today one finds no trace of Mormondom there, save a few sections of earthworks.

THE GOLD HUNTERS' PANIC—1849

Next to the Mormon incident came the exciting gold-hunting years, when thousands of men came on from the remote East, even from New England, and crossed the Great American Desert, including Nebraska, headed for the gold fields of northern California, that being the year in which much pure gold was discovered in that far-away Pacific state. The valley of the Platte was the natural avenue by which to approach the mountains, especially from the Northern States. At points on the Missouri River where teams could find a crossing, thousands took advantage and crossed over and making up long trains of horses, mule and ox teams, started on their tedious route. Many were illly prepared and perished by the wayside. Some gave up trying to get to the gold fields and settled down to make homes for themselves, and these persons were among the pioneer band that made permanent settlement in Nebraska. However, their number was not very large. As Barrett says in his "Nebraska and the Nation," one must have a strong imagination to realize even dimly the long lines of toilers across the continent, the hardships and heartaches, and the terrible suffering, which left the whole way strewn by castaway garments, by beasts of burden that had perished, and by graves of weary pilgrims. This sad picture points to a moral about fortune-hunting.

CHAPTER III

INDIAN OCCUPANCY AND FINAL DEPARTURE

CONCERNING THE INDIANS—PAWNEES—PIKE THE EXPLORER AMONG THE INDIANS—THE PONCAS—THE ALGONQUIAN FAMILY—SAC AND FOX PURCHASE—OTHER INDIAN TRIBES—THE KIOWAN FAMILY—HALF-BREED TRACT, ETC.—STILL OTHER TRIBES—CHARACTER AND RELATION WITH THE WHITES—IMPLEMENTS AND WEAPONS—HOSTILITY TOWARD THE WHITES—INDIAN WAR OF 1890-91.

There was a stronger influence than the contour of the land which drew the tide of emigration, although this had its effect, doubtless, to such an extent that the route of travel had a west-by-northwest course. The food supply became the main factor in determining the real direction of migration. The buffalo, which are indigenous to the whole central region of North America, were partial to the open country and enticed the Indians to the Nebraska plains which they possessed in vast herds. This noble animal was the source of supply for almost every want; food from the flesh, raiment and shelter from the hide, implements from his bones, vessels for holding liquids from his intestines and fuel from his dung. The buffalo made it possible for great numbers of Indians to subsist in comparative ease on the treeless prairies of Nebraska.

By far the greater number of Indian tribes, which have from time to time inhabited this territory now known as the commonwealth of Nebraska, followed the general rule of migration from east to west. These tribes belonged to two linguistic families—the Algonquian and the Siouan. Both these great families sprang from the region east of the Appalachian Mountains and in turn occupied nearly the entire Mississippi Valley.

The first occupants of Nebraska did not follow this rule. The Caddoan linguistic family had its home in the South near the banks of the Red River, and migrated northwest, occupying the valley of the Kansas River and reaching northwest to the valley of the Platte River, finally going west to the foothills of the mountains. Two other linguistic families, the Shoshonean and Kiowan, encroached on our territory from the west. They hunted along the headwaters of the Republican and Platte rivers and claimed a part of the territory of this state, but few, if any, ruins of their permanent homes are found within the present limits. Only these five linguistic families were found in Nebraska and but two of them—the Caddoan and Siouan—are of importance in this connection. Tribes of these two families had their permanent home within the state and fought with one another and among themselves for supremacy on our eastern borders and up and down the Platte Valley.

The original homes of the Caddoan family was on the Red River of the South. Prior to 1400, A. D., one band, known as the Skidi, branched off from the main stock and drifted to the Platte Valley. The next line of immigration is hard to decide upon, but tradition says this tribe lived as allies of the Omahas near the mouth of the Ohio River. It is not impossible that they may have followed the Mississippi River in coming to the Platte Valley, where, according to historian Dunbar, they were

located in 1400, A. D. Prior to 1500, A. D., another branch branched off from the parent stock and drifted northward to a point near the Kansas-Nebraska line. Here the Wichitas turned back and went south, while the Pawnees moved northward and occupied the Platte Valley and intervening country. In 1541 A. D., Coronado found the Wichitas near the Kansas River and sent a summon to the "Lord of Harahey" (Pawnee) to visit him, which he did with 200 naked warriors: This is the earliest authentic record of Indians occupying Nebraska territory. This is the first time civilized man ever saw an Indian from what is now Nebraska. All history before that date is simply legendary, and legendary history is so conflicting that we may only say that it is possible for it to be true.

How far Onate penetrated in 1599 in his trip northeastward from New Mexico is hard to establish. He says he visited the City of Quivera which was on the north bank of a wide, shallow river (likely the Platte). He says he fought with the "Escanzaques" and killed a thousand. Possibly this battle was in Nebraska. Penalosa also claims to have had a conflict when three brief glimpses into Spanish history are substantiated. We may be able sometime to establish more definitely the exact date of Indian occupancy in Nebraska.

THE PAWNEES

The Pawnee (proper), consisting of three main tribes—the Choui (or Grand), the Pita-how-e-rat (or Tapage) and the Kit-ke-hak-i (or Republican), emigrated to the Platte Valley prior to 1500 A. D. They held the country fifty miles wide west of the Missouri River and were eventually conquered by the Skidi band, who had come in 100 years before, and adopted it into their own tribe. Before the Pawnees came, however, a band called Arikara had drifted away from the Skidi band and established itself on the Missouri River, but out of the bounds of Nebraska. The Arikaras came into Nebraska and lived with the Skidi tribe for three years, from 1832 to 1835, when they returned home.

In 1861, just at the opening of the Civil war period, the editor of the Huntsman's Echo described the Pawnees on their Genoa reservation as follows: "The Pawnees numbered at first about four thousand souls and possibly a fraction more, and when at home live in a cluster of huts built with crotches and poles, covered with willows, then with grass and dirt, giving the appearance, at a little distance, of an immense collection of 'potato hills', all of a circular shape and oval. The entrance is through a passage walled with earth, the hole in the center at top serving both for a window and a chimney, the fire being built in the center. Along the sides little apartments are divided off from the main room by partitions of willow, rush and flag, some of them being neat and tidily constructed, and altogether the lodges are quite roomy and comfortable, and each is frequently the abode of two or more families. In their villages are no regular streets or alleys, but each builds in a rather promiscuous manner, having no other care than to be comfortable without much regard to taste or order. This tribe is divided into five bands, each being under a special chief or leader and the whole confederation being under one principal chief. Each band has its separate habitation and is distinct from the other. Three bands live in villages adjoining and all camp in one village, the other two some little distance removed. There is considerable rivalry between the tribes or bands in fighting, hunting and other sports, and not infrequently one band commits theft upon the effects of another band."

At the beginning of the Civil war the Pawnees had several thousand horses, but owing to the severe cold, and long winters that followed hundreds of the poor animals perished from sore tongues and other disorder. The animals lived out all winter upon dry grass; but if the snow was too deep for them to reach it, cottonwood trees were cut down and the horses would subsist upon the bark. These horses were above the average in their "high-toned-ness" for it is said that they would not eat corn raised in civilized life, even when placed before them. They were valued at from \$30 to \$60 each.

The Pawnees at this time generally took two hunts each year, and at such times all went—old and young, both sexes—and for the time their villages were abandoned, while the tribe visited the buffalo ranges. From these visits the summer months were put in in securing jerked meat and



MOVING INDIANS

lodge skins and in the autumn hunt they secured buffalo robes, furs and tanned skins; also dried buffalo meat. These hunts were usually in the beautiful "Indian Summer" months of October and November. These Indians had a field of considerable extent, near each village, where they cultivated corn in considerable quantities; also raised many beans. With these and a little flour and sugar they managed to eke out their existence, miserable though it was. Some seasons of the year they feasted and others almost starved.

One writer who traveled extensively among the Indians wrote of this tribe: "The females are the working bees of the hive; they dig up the soil, raise and gather the crops, cut timber, build lodges, pack wood and water, cook, nurse the babies, carry all the burdens, tan the skins and make the robes, as well as all moccasins. The lord of the other sex reclines by the fire or sits in the shade, kills the game, and their enemies, does all the stealing and most of the eating, wears the best ornaments and plays the dandy in their way to a scratch. They are a tall, graceful and athletic figure, as straight as an arrow and as proud as a lord, while the squaws are short, thick, stooping, poorly clad, filthy and squalid. Parentless children and the very aged are left behind or at the wayside where they perish and die, as useless creatures."

EXPLORER PIKE AMONG THESE INDIANS

Pike in his exploring expedition tells of his visit to the Pawnees in 1806 and says they dwelt near the south line of the present state until about 1812, when they journeyed to the rest of the band north of the Platte River. Dunbar gives the location of the various tribes in 1834: The Choui band resided on the south bank of the Platte River, twenty miles above the mouth of the Loup; the Kit-ke-hak-i lived eighteen miles northwest, on the north side of the Loup; the Pita-haw-e-rat, eleven miles farther up the Loup and the Skidi five miles above those last named. He says they changed their villages every eight to ten years. In 1833 the Pawnee ceded the territory of Platte to the United States. In 1857 they ceded the territory north of the Platte (except their reservation in Nance County). The territory ceded is said to have been embraced in the central one-third of present Nebraska State. The reservation just named was ceded in 1876 and the Pawnees were then taken to the Indian Territory, where they still enjoy their reservation.

OTHER TRIBES

The various branches of the Siouan linguistic stock have come to this state at five different times. The first were the Mandans, whose coming is not certain as to date, but very far remote at any rate. Catlin, the greatest Indian portrait painter and traveler among the North American Indians, is said to have traced their earthworks and habitat down the Ohio River and up the Missouri. Another authority states the Siouan family began to cross the Appalachian range of mountains a thousand years ago. The Mandans were the first to break off from the parent stock and the only excuse we have for including them in this history is the probability that they crossed our borders on their way up the Missouri River some time prior to the coming of the Skidi band in 1400 A. D.

In 1500 A. D. the Omaha tribe was located near the mouth of the Ohio River, so its advent in central Nebraska was certainly after 1500. Their trail is traced quite accurately up the Missouri and Des Moines rivers to its present home in the northeastern part of Nebraska. The Osage tribe branched off and remained at the Osage River. The Kansas tribe came on to the Kansas River and there established its present habitat.

The Omahas and Poncas remained together until 1650, when the latter moved northward and occupied the country from the mouth of the Niobrara west to the Black Hills. By the treaty of March 16, 1854, the Omahas ceded the northeast third of Nebraska to the United States, excepting that part north of a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Aoway River. That tongue of land which was added to Nebraska in 1890, by authority of congressional act dated March 28, 1882, and which lies between the Niobrara, Keya Paha and Missouri rivers, was ceded by the Poncas in 1858, except a small reservation. In 1877 the Poncas were moved to the Indian Territory.

The third detachment of the Siouan family to occupy Nebraska consisted of three tribes—the Otoes, Missouris and the Iowas. The Otoes and Iowas have always been closely related. They were first seen at the mouth of the Des Moines River by Marquette in 1673. They are said by tradition to have sprung from the Winnebagoes. It is stated that in 1699 they went to live with the Omahas. The Missouris have

had a very checkered career. They were first seen in 1670 at the mouth of the Missouri River. Soon after 1700 they were overcome by the Sacs and Foxes and other tribes. Most of their number joined another tribe, but a few went with the Osage and others united with the Kansas tribe. They have never ceded land to the United States, except in company with the Otoes, but they have been a party to every transaction of the Otoes. For all practical purposes the Otoes and Missouris have been one tribe during their occupancy of Nebraska domain. The Otoes and Missouris ceded the southeast portion of this state in 1833 to the United States; this cession embraced the land south and west of Nemaha. The remaining portion of the land which they claimed lay between the Nemaha, Missouri and the Platte rivers, reaching as far west as Seward County. The last tract was ceded in 1854, when they returned to their reservation south from Beatrice. In 1881 they relinquished this domain and now abide in Indian Territory. Most of the Iowas remained east of Nebraska soil until 1836, when they were given a tract of land along the south bank of the Nemaha. This land they retained in part in individual allotments, but remained under the Great Nemaha Agency. This tribe of Indians was always closely associated with the Otoes, but was never under the same tribal relations as an organized body of Indians, as was the Missouri tribe. All three tribes belonged to the same branch of the Siouan family as the Winnebago.

The council gave the United States title to the east two-thirds of the domain in Nebraska. The earliest treaty by which they acquired title to land in Nebraska was made with the Kansas tribe in 1825; by this treaty the Kansas tribe ceded a semi-circular tract along the south line, reaching from Fall City to Red Willow County and almost as far as Lincoln. So it appears that the Kansas tribe at least laid claim to part of the territory now called Nebraska.

The next detachment of the great Siouan family to invade Nebraska was from the northern branch of this tribe which dwelt along the Great Lakes. The Assiniboin had separated from this branch as early as 1650, and according to McGee, were near the Lake of the Woods in 1766, so they had not long wandered over Nebraska when the white man's history began here.

THE PONCAS AND OMAHAS

The Poncas and Omahas joined in repressing the advance of the northern tribes and held them back from the great waterways for many years, but they hunted on the headwaters of the Platte and Republican rivers and even went as far to the south as the headwaters of the Smoky Hill and Solomon rivers. The Crows were doubtless the first to encroach on the Platte Valley; they drifted to the Black Hill country in a very early day and hunted on the Platte from the northwest. The Blackfeet, a branch of the Saskatchewan tribe, came later. The Yankton, Santee, Brule, Sisseton, Teton, Minnataree and parts of the tribes from the headwaters of the Platte frequently hunted and fought in the valley of this stream. They united in ceding the northwest part of the State of Nebraska to the United States in 1868, reserving for themselves a common hunting ground right, which, however, in 1875, they relinquished. They next were numbered in the various reservations of Dakotah and Indian Territory.

The Winnebagos were the last tribe of the great Siouan family to come hither. They were moved from Minnesota to a part of the Omaha

reservation in 1862, and there still reside. Schoolcraft says in his Indian history that this tribe once lived on a branch of the Crow Wing River, Minnesota. Some of the Santee Sioux were moved to Nebraska at the same time, but many of both tribes came across the country before.

THE ALGONQUIAN FAMILY

To this family belongs the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Astina, who wandered over the western part of Nebraska, as did the Sac and Fox tribe, which had a reservation in the extreme southeastern part of this state from 1836 to 1885. The Algonquian family once occupied the greater portion of the Mississippi Valley. At a very early date the Cheyenne drifted westward through Dakota and gave their name to one of the important streams. Later, they drifted southward. Explorers Lewis and Clark mention this tribe as occupying a portion of the Cheyenne Valley in 1804, while Long in his 1819 expedition found small bands which had seceded from the main stock on the Cheyenne River and had roamed with the Arapaho along the Platte River. Gen. J. C. Fremont made a record which states that this tribe was found on the Platte above Grand Island in 1843. They ceded the southwest portion of Nebraska in 1861.

SAC AND FOX PURCHASE

The United States purchased all of Missouri north of the river, most of the State of Iowa, and a portion of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota from the Sac and Fox tribe. They seem to have been the original owners of the Mississippi and Missouri fronts and the Siouan tribes as they departed went westward doubtless had these Indians to contend with. The Sac and Fox gave up their holdings and settled on a southern reservation, excepting a band who took up a reservation on the Great Nemaha River, party in Nebraska and a part of which is in Kansas.

OTHER INDIAN TRIBES

It is certain the Comanches roamed at will over Nebraska soil at one time, and probably the "Padoucas" once had their home and hunting ground here; at least North Fork of the Platte River was known in early days as the Padouca fork. Historian Mooney, in one of his early reports, says: "In 1719 the Comanche were mentioned under their Siouan name of Padoucas living in what is now known as the western part of the State of Kansas. It must not be overlooked that five to eight hundred miles was an ordinary range for plains tribes and the Comanche were equally at home on the North Platte or on the Chihuahua (Mexico)."

The Comanche and the Kansas Indian tribes were closely connected for over 150 years, at least. There is no record that the Comanche ever ceded any part of this state to the United States Government.

THE KIOWAN FAMILY

This tribe of Indians migrated from the northwest and took up a residence near the Black Hills. From that point they were driven by the bloodthirsty Sioux tribes and Lewis and Clark mention them as residing on the north fork of the Platte in 1805, in all they had seventy-five tepees.

They slowly drifted southward until they occupied the south side of the Arkansas River country. As this particular tribe seldom lived long away from the mountain countries, it is most likely that they had not been long occupiers of Nebraska domain.

THE HALF-BREED TRACT, ETC.

There was a halfbreed tract situated between Neosha and Missouri rivers. It was set apart in 1830, intended for the home of civilized Indians belonging to the Omaha, Iowa, Otoe, Yankton and Santee Sioux halfbreeds.

The Pine Ridge and Rosebud agencies are located just to the north of the Nebraska line in South Dakota and the Indian title to a narrow strip adjoining this state was until recent years not yet extinguished. The only Indian agencies in Nebraska at this date (1920) are the Santee, near Niobrara; the Ponca, the Omahas and the Winnebagos in Thurston County.

In 1890 United States census returns give the number of Indians in this state as being 3,322. There are three Indian schools in the state conducted by the Federal Government—one on the Santee reservation; one on the Omaha-Winnebago reservation, while a boarding school is run at Genoa, Nance County.

TRIBAL LANDS, ETC.

All tribal lands, except a small part of the Omaha reservation, have been allotted and all Indians are taxed as citizens of the state. The Omahas in 1904 numbered 1,200 and the Winnebagos 1,100 souls. The Omahas are of a much higher type of Indian citizens than the Winnebagos, and are by far the more industrious, taking great pride in becoming good agriculturists. They also pay strict attention to their marriage vows, whereas the Winnebagos pay little attention to such matters.

INDIAN CHARACTER AND RELATIONS WITH SETTLERS

W. J. McGee, in his report of the Bureau of Ethnology, remarks: "They were ceremonious among themselves and crafty towards enemies, tactful diplomats as well as brave soldiers, shrewd strategists as well as fierce fighters; ever they were skillful readers of human nature. Among some of the tribes every movement and gesture and expression the male adults seems to have been affected or controlled with the view of impressing spectators and auditors, and through constant schooling the warriors became most consummate actors.

"The best developed industries were hunting and warfare, though all of the tribes subsisted in part on fruits, nuts, berries, tubers, grains and other vegetable products, largely wild, though sometimes planted and even cultivated in rude fashion. The southwestern tribes, and to some extent the eastern remnant, grew maize, beans, pumpkins, melons, squashes, sunflowers and tobacco, though their agriculture seems always to have been subordinate to the chase."

In manners and customs the Indian was very different from the whites. For this reason the two did not come to understand one another as they did years later. An interesting thing in which this is true was the idea that the greatest man always gave away most things. On this account, nearly always the chiefs were very poor in this world's goods.

IMPLEMENTS AND WEAPONS

Stone, wood, horn, bone and antler were usually used for implements and weapons. The domestic utensils were made from wood, crude pottery, basketry, bags and bottles of skin. Their apparel consisted of breech clout, moccasins, leggins and robe, usually of dressed skins. The prairie tribes had for places of abode earth lodges for winter, buffalo skin tepees for summer. Their horses were of Spanish origin. The new enterprise of catching wild horses made a great difference with their mode of living. They had for their amusements—races, wrestling matches, games of chance; sports for boys, making bows and arrows, playing hunt, etc.; of girls, dolls, play-house, etc. The organization of tribes was very complicated. Their property regulations were strictly observed; common land; much individual possessions in other things, but a great deal of entertainment of friends in the family lodge. Tepees belonged to the women. Food was not owned in common.

HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE WHITES

The associations between the two races—the red man and the white man—made up one continual warfare, at least this was true from about the commencement of the Civil war period, when it has been suspected by northern radical thinkers, that they were greatly influenced by the men at the head of the Southern Confederacy, in order to weaken the strength of the Northern army. This was proven in a number of instances, among which was the uprising at New Ulm, Minnesota, in 1862, when a thousand settlers were ruthlessly massacred by the blood-thirsty Sioux. But be that as it may, the histories of the counties that have been compiled of the part of the country in which Lincoln County and Nebraska in general were situated are replete with accounts of bitter feelings, hostilities, cattle and horse stealing, and some loss of life, too. On the other hand it must be admitted that the Indians were ill treated by them. Not by the sturdy actual settler, but by the roving band of traders and rougher element that is ever found on the frontier of any country. The Indians resented any personal injury and took vengeance upon all whites alike.

When cattle were stolen by the Indians large companies of white settlers would band themselves together and overtake the offenders. Punishment was meted out without trial and without delay. A marked change was noted with the commencement of the Civil war. Then it was that Indian hostilities increased rapidly. Not only did they attack and murder small parties and raid settlements here and there, but the spirit of enmity caused many bands of savages all through the great Northwest to combine in attacking settlements.

August 7, 1864, occurred one of the worst Indian raids the true pioneers of Nebraska ever suffered. At about the same hour of the same day and month all the homes except two along a route of 200 miles were surrounded and burned. The inmates who could not escape were killed, and their provisions and goods were carried off. This state of affairs continued to some extent after the close of our Civil war which ended in April, 1865.

One writer of Nebraska history relates that in the neighborhood of Lincoln County the attacks of Indians continued for five years. As late as the time the Union Pacific Railroad was constructed through this county the company's property and men had to be guarded and pro-

tected by United States soldiers, who as late as 1869-70 also stood guard for the Government surveyors who were then quarter-sectioning this county.

INDIAN WAR OF 1890-91

The last trouble between the Indians and whites in Nebraska occurred in 1890-91, in which case, as usually before, the United States (shame to such deeds) failed to keep good her word with the Indians. If the Government authorities were innocent (which is doubted) at least they winked at the unlawful acts committed by Indian agents, who did not have at heart the good of all concerned, but wished only to make what they could out of trading with the ignorant Indians. Many of the Indians at the commencement of that noted outbreak were literally starving to death, due to the shiftless policy of the Government.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY SETTLEMENT

FONTANELLE SETTLEMENT—THROWN INTO WASHINGTON COUNTY—
FIRST HOUSES—FIRST LAND BROKEN—EARLY CROPS—MILLING—
MARKETS—TOWNSITE PROJECTS—NORTH BEND—FREMONT—FIRST
BIRTHS—DEATH—HARD WINTER 1856-57—PAWNEE INDIANS—1857
PANIC—1857 SETTLEMENT—PIONEER HIMEBAUGH'S EXPERIENCES—
SIXTY PER CENT INTEREST—PIKE'S PEAK—IMMIGRATION DAYS—
UNION PACIFIC.

The reader will bear in mind that Fontanelle was at first within Dodge County, but two years after the settlement of this part of the state it was thrown into Washington County. Then in Fontanelle was the first settlement—made by the "Nebraska Colonization Company" from Quincy, Illinois. But the first regular settlement in what is now Dodge County was effected by John and Arthur Bloomer, near the mouth of Maple Creek, early in April, 1856. During the first part of the next month, they broke out twenty-five acres of prairie which was the small beginning of agricultural pursuits in Dodge County now so famous as a farming section. Mr. Bloomer spent his last years at the Soldier's Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

May 25, 1856, Mrs. Wealthy Beebe, with her children and Abram McNeal, her son-in-law, with his family, located two miles west of Fremont—then unknown as a settlement. The following month, George Emerson took a claim five miles west of the present site of North Bend, built him a shanty and broke out eight or ten acres of prairie land. July 4th the North Bend Colony, attracted by the promises of the townsitc company, arrived and settled permanently. (See details in North Bend History.)

August, 1856, the first settlers having claimed the site of Fremont, a town was formed under the name of Pinney, Barnard & Company, whose doings with the Platt Valley Claim Club, were among the first promoters in this part of the county. September 3, 1856, the new town was named Fremont after the great western pathfinder—Gen. John C. Fremont, who was the republican candidate that fall for President of the United States. At the same campaign the democrats named a townsitc twenty-five miles to the west "Buchanan."

In June, 1856, O. A. Himebaugh entered a half section of land on Maple Creek, three miles south of the present Village of Hooper. He and his brother lived in a cottonwood hut together. There was then a sawmill at Fontanelle, lumber selling in Omaha at \$100 a thousand feet. John Batie had previously marked a tree in section 5, township 18 and entered his claim in the books of the club at Fontanelle. Of him Mr. Himebaugh purchased fifty acres of hardwood timber for \$200 in gold. His experience in that region during that never-to-be-forgotten winter of 1856-57, was but the common lot of all who then undertook to spend the winter months here. Cold weather and deep snows obtained from December till almost May 1, 1857. Food was scarce. Once in a great while some hardy persons would face the storm to Omaha from

Fontanelle and thus get in touch with the river points and the east. One of these terrible trips to Omaha was made by Mr. Himebaugh. He started out Monday morning and arrived home late Saturday of that week. He affirmed that on a level, the snow was fully three feet deep, and drifted entirely over many of the cabins, stables and haystacks. Cattle perished in the blinding storm, or were smothered in the rude shelters. Strychnine was applied to their carcasses to prevent a pestilence when spring thaws came, and many hungry wolves perished likewise, but crawled away and died without such thoughtful preservation.

The first death of a human being (white) that ever occurred in Dodge County was Steadman Hager, who perished while driving from North Bend to his home west from Fremont. His remains were found the following spring when the snows melted away under the welcome sunshine. His was the first funeral and Reverend Cooley, a Disciple minister, preached the sermon.

The twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Abram McNeal were born April 8, 1856. McNeal was a son-in-law of pioneer Mrs. Wealthy Beebe, first to settle in the Platte Valley proper.

Seth Young, son of George Young and wife, was born at North Bend November 30, 1856. December 20 the mother died and was buried where cold winds and driving storms could reach her no more. It being impossible at such a time to secure a coffin, cottonwood boards were torn from the house flooring and a casket made from it in which the deceased pioneer was buried. About 100 persons braved the terrible winter of 1856-57.

The Pawnee Indians were then stationed just south of the Platte River and their chief village was nearly opposite Fremont. An early writer speaks of them thus: "They had looked on with angry faces at the inroads which the new settlers were making upon their timber land. In the fall of 1856 the people of Fremont derived an advantage over the Pawnees by sending for military aid to Omaha, the 'force' being piloted by James G. Smith. When this terrible winter came upon this country, the Pawnees were firmly of the belief that the 'white man brought the big snows' and were 'Bad Medicine' for them. They threatened dire calamity and 'looked blood,' sending at one time twenty of their strongest chiefs across the river for the purpose of commanding the settlers to depart. After parleying a time, the brave men of the tribe decided to take 'much good supper' instead of many scalps, and their thirst for blood was thus appeased. They were hungry—that's what ailed them—and fully satisfied themselves, they left and never returned to molest or threaten. They became unpleasant neighbors, however, and hardly a day passed during 1857 that they did not come to Fremont in large numbers either to trade with Smith Brothers, or steal back some of the goods they had sold the firm. By the treaty of September 4, 1857, they were removed to their reservation in the valley of the Loup Fork River. In 1859 when the Pawnees passed through Fremont, going north, bound on the warpath up the Elkhorn Valley, they committed no depredations upon that village, avoiding hostilities of any nature until they reached the settlements on Maple Creek. A full account of the Pawnee war will be found elsewhere in this work, hence only mentioned here.

"The financial panic of 1857 had its effect on Dodge County's settlement. The summer had been spent mostly in breaking prairie for crops, only a little sod corn and a few potatoes. The settlers were therefore ill prepared for the oncoming severe fall and winter. Money became a thing almost entirely unknown to this band of settlers. Even postage stamps were a curiosity."

SPRING OF 1857 SETTLEMENT

In the spring of this year quite a number of settlers came into this county, including H. P. Wolcott in May, who in August was joined by G. W. Wolcott. Their claims were northwest of Fremont, near the Elm Grove Claim, later the property of John Batie, who moved over from Fontanelle. H. G. Wolcott, a brother of H. P., received frequent letters from him, full of glowing accounts of the country. Later in the autumn such letters ceased to come to his brother, and later it was explained that "they had no money with which to pay the postage on letters."

The land pre-empted by Mr. Himebaugh came into the market in 1858, and he was obliged to hire \$150 of a banker in Omaha, at 60 per cent interest. The note was compounded the second year at 25 per cent. The third year the same banker's terms were given him. It was virtually impossible to secure money. Finding it one failure upon another Mr. Himebaugh abandoned his farm operations and started out to dispose of his crop. From his farm on Maple Creek, he was compelled to haul his wheat to Omaha and have it ground into flour. With two ox teams he started on a journey of 600 miles to Denver. He took with him 6,000 pounds of flour and was two months on the road. His season's work netted him \$360. The payment which he was finally obliged to make on the original note for his land amounted to \$415. He could not meet it and nearly lost his land, with improvements. Many people in this county were making preparations to leave. Pioneer Himebaugh, however, was "given another chance" and he improved it well.

PIKE'S PEAK IMMIGRATION

The season of 1858 was extremely wet, little was grown save some soft sod corn and soggy potatoes. This diet allowed settlers to exist. The winter of 1858-59 was fortunately quite free from cold and storms. In the spring of 1859 the Pike's Peak immigration brought into the country considerable money which revived trade somewhat. Soon after, on the return of these gold-seekers, they brought back with them much money (in some instances only) and also valuable provisions, which they sold cheaply to the settlers in both village and country.

The construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866 was the marking of another special era in the history and settlement of the domain of Dodge County.

An account of many settlers will be found in the township and village chapters of this work, hence need not here be enlarged on.

THE COUNTY'S TOPOGRAPHY

The Relative State History section of this work gives much on the general geology and topography of Nebraska, including that of Dodge and Washington counties, but in this connection this much should specifically be said concerning the topography, streams, etc., of this part of the state.

The surface of the wonderful valley now under consideration (Platte) constitutes a vast domain with undulating prairie lands of great extent, diversified by a few low hills and ridges.

From the west and north the land slopes gradually toward the Missouri River, which bounds the state on the east and northeast. The Elkhorn River is the greatest natural drainage for this whole section

assisted by the Niobrara and Union rivers. The Elkhorn Valley which stretches itself across the northern part of the state is one of extreme fertility and its many tributaries and several lakes render the country well watered. The western part of this section is well suited for grazing purposes. Generally speaking, the wonderful fertility of the soil and the absence of sloughs have attracted its thousands of actual settlers who at once commenced planting out groves of timber which now have come to be miniature forests and lend both beauty and utility to the otherwise monotonous prairie landscape.

In the lower counties embraced in this valley grains of all kinds (including winter wheat) do well. Corn, the staple crop, is unsurpassed by any section of the West, while the flat lands produce a luxuriant growth of both wild and tame grasses. Hence stock-raising is a predominating feature of the inhabitants.

Good water is obtainable at almost any point in this valley at depths ranging from 20 to 100 feet. Much concerning the streams and general formation of this valley is treated in other sections of the work.

The chief streams of the county are the Elkhorn, Rawhide Creek, Pebble Creek, Logan Creek, Clark Creek and Maple Creek.

The Elkhorn River, a stream of the third class and the largest in Dodge County, flows from the northwest to the southeast. Its length is, in this county, about thirty miles. It was named in 1804 by the explorers Clark and Lewis. Its meanderings as well as the soil through which its cuts its changeable channel is very similar to that of the Missouri.

Rawhide Creek took its name from the fact (or tradition) that during the 1849 emigration to California it was said that a white man was bound by the Pawnee Indians on the banks of this stream and there literally burned to death, his skin being left in great rolls resembling rawhide. It rises near North Bend and flows eastward to the Elkhorn River.

Pebble Creek derives its name from the many white pebbles found at a ford at which the soldiers crossed in 1849 during the "Pawnee war." This stream has its source in the northwestern part of the county and forms junction with the Elkhorn River in Everett Township.

Logan Creek derives its name from Logan Fontenelle, a friendly chief of the Omaha Indian tribe. It was given this name by Col. William Kline in 1854. It finds its source in Burt County and unites with Clark Creek in Hooper Township.

Clark Creek was so named by Col. William Kline in honor of Dr. M. H. Clark, the first territorial representative from Dodge County. It rises in Logan Township and enters Logan Creek in Hooper Township.

Maple Creek takes its source in Union Township and flows eastward across the entire county, emptying into the Elkhorn River near Nickerson in Maple Township.

CHAPTER V

ORGANIZATION OF DODGE COUNTY

ORIGINAL AND PRESENT BOUNDARIES—COUNTY SEAT CONTEST—MEETING OF FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—PLATTING OF FREMONT—AGITATING ERECTION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS

Counties, like states and nations, have their own peculiar forms of government—here in Nebraska the two systems obtain, County Commissioners' Court for Precincts and the present "Township Organization" plan under which Dodge County has been governed since 1886.

Dodge County is bounded on the north by Cuming and Burt counties; on the east by Washington and Burt counties; on the south by Saunders and Douglas counties; on the west by Colfax County. As now constituted it comprises about fourteen congressional townships. Its seat of justice is the City of Fremont. This county was organized by an act of the Territorial Legislature of Nebraska in the winter of 1854-55. The act which fixed and approved its first boundaries was dated March 15, 1855, and read as follows:

"Commencing at a point on the Platte river at the southwest corner of Douglas county, running westerly along said Platte river to the mouth of Shell Creek—thence north twenty-five miles; thence east to the western bounds of Washington county; thence south to place of beginning. The Town of Fontenelle shall be the place of justice in and for said county."

The act approved November 2, 1858, read as follows: "An act to establish boundary between Washington and Dodge counties:—Beginning at the Fourth Standard parallel two miles east of the southwest corner of township 17, range 10, east of the Sixth p. m.; thence north twelve miles to the line between ranges 9 and 10; thence north to the south line of Burt county."

The act of 1869 established the line between the counties of Dodge and Burt as follows: "Commencing at the northwest corner of township 20, north of range 8, east; thence east along the Fifth Standard parallel to the northeast corner of section 6, township 20, north of range 9 east; thence south on the section line one mile east of, and parallel with the Guide Meridian four miles to the north line of Washington county as defined by the act of the Legislature of the Territory of Nebraska approved February 9, 1857."

Dodge County is the second west of the Missouri River and is situated in the point not very far distant from the confluence of the Elkhorn and Platte rivers.

By the above acts it will be discovered that at first that part of present Washington County in which the Village of Fontanelle is located was a part of Dodge County originally. Fontanelle was then the county seat, and so continued until in 1860 when the county's boundary was changed, by act of the Territorial Legislature, and in February, 1860, by a vote of the people the seat of justice was changed to Fremont.

It should be stated in connection with the organization of Dodge County that it was one of the original subdivisions in the Territory of

Nebraska. Acting Gov. T. B. Cuming (who acted after the death of Gov. Francis Burt) divided the territory into eight counties—Burt, Washington, Dodge, Douglas, Cass, Pierce, Forney and Richardson. Dodge County was bounded as follows: Commencing at a point on the Platte River twenty miles west of Bellevue thence westerly along the said Platte River to the mouth of Shell Creek, thence north twenty-five miles, thence east to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and the Missouri rivers, thence south to place of beginning. The voting precinct was established at the house of Dr. M. H. Clark of Fontenelle. William Kline, Christopher S. Leiber and William E. Estley were appointed judges of election and William Taylor and E. G. McNeely clerks. The county was named in honor of Augustus C. Dodge, a United States Senator from Iowa and an active supporter of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. In accord with the proclamation of Acting Governor Cuming made October 21, 1854, an enumeration of the inhabitants of the territory was made. The apportionment of Dodge County was one councilman and two representatives.

Eight votes were cast at Fontenelle on December 12, 1854, by which Dr. M. H. Clark was chosen to the Territorial Council and Judge J. W. Richardson and Col. E. R. Doyle to the lower house, constituted the first election ever held in Dodge County. In regard to their "constituents" left at home Doctor Abbott had the following in his history:

"The first Territorial Legislature convened at Omaha on January 16, 1855, and while Messrs. Clark, Robinson and Doyle were attending the legislature, the Town of Fontenelle and the county of Dodge were deserted by their inhabitants until Col. William Kline, then and later a respected citizen of Fontenelle, and a half breed Indian named Jo, were the only constituents left to the honorable members of Dodge. Colonel Kline can truly be said to have had at one time in his life the largest representation according to population of any gentleman in Nebraska if not in the United States." In November, 1855, Thomson Gibson was elected a member of the House of Representatives from Dodge County. At the third election for members Silas E. Seely secured forty-four votes and Thomas Gibson forty-one votes. Gibson contested Seely's seat on the ground that Seely had not resided long enough in the legislative district. The Legislature vacated the seat held by Seely on his certificate, but did not declare for Gibson, thus leaving Dodge unrepresented in the lower house in the winter of 1857.

Prior to the coming of the first settlers at North Bend, in the southwestern part of Dodge County, a town company had been formed by speculators in Omaha and land disposed of without even being seen at high prices. In November, 1856, after a colony had been induced to locate by the paper company, George J. Turton built a double log house. It was here that the first election in November within the present limits of Dodge County was held, Mr. Turton being selected as commissioner, Silas E. Seely, representative, and Robert Kittle and George Young, justices of the peace.

By legislative act of March 2, 1858, the eastern boundary of Dodge County was re-defined and in January, 1860, it was so changed (the Elkhorn River being its limits) that Fontenelle, the county seat, was cut off. By an election held the next month the honor was transferred to Fremont. The southern boundary had already been changed to its present limits; the northern and western boundaries were left in peace. In February, 1867, a portion of the territory cut off by the act of 1860 known as the Logan precinct, was re-annexed to the county. In March,

1873, slight changes were made in the boundaries and in February, 1875, the Legislature prescribed the present limits.

The first commissioners of the county met January 6, 1857, the session being held in Fontanelle at John Batie's house. William E. Lee and Thomas Fitzsimmons were on hand while L. C. Baldwin of Golden Gate precinct was absent. An order of business was adopted, after which the county was divided into three precincts. All the territory east of the Elkhorn River was fixed as No. 1, all between the Platte River and a line running west, starting from the Elkhorn River on the township line between townships 17 and 18 to the western boundary of the county, No. 2; all north of said line and west of the Elkhorn River to be known as No. 3. The county was also divided into road districts.



LOG HOUSE OF HON. E. H. ROGERS, FREMONT, ERECTED IN 1857

On April 6, 1857, the commissioners met, but on account of the drowning of Seth P. Marvin at the ferry, "without adjournment" repaired to the river. The next day Robert Kittle resigned his office as justice of the peace. On May 30, Fremont precinct was organized so as to include all south of township line between townships 17 and 18 and east of range line between 7 and 8.

Soon after Fremont was platted by the town company in 1856, it became evident that Fontanelle was to be vigorously pushed for the county seat by its somewhat younger competitor. The excitement reached its climax during the winter of 1859-60 when Fremont was growing rapidly and pressing her claims more strongly than ever for the county seat.

E. H. Rogers of Fremont was the representative from this county in the lower house; James Stewart of Washington County and John Rick of Platte. Rogers was sent to the Legislature in 1859 and was pledged to work against any attempt to change the boundary between Dodge and Washington counties. There were eight delegates present at the nominating convention, Mr. Roger's opponent was Thomas Gibson, then a resident of Fontanelle and therefore interested in removing the western boundary of Washington County so far west as to bring the village somewhere near the center and throw Fremont in a corner, and therefore out

of all chances for becoming the county seat. The delegates from the Fontanelle region numbered four, and the delegates from Fremont way numbered four when they entered the nominating convention. They voted by ballot, and what was the consternation of Fontanelle when the result was announced—five for Rogers and three for Gibson! In haste and trepidation the Fontanelleites returned homeward, and there each and every man formally swore that he voted for Gibson. It has ever been believed that a delegate named Saint forgot himself and his candidate.

By January, 1860, Fremont had outgrown Fontanelle so that the county seat could be removed to the former place by the crowding of the latter out of the county. The first election after the selection had been made was held on the first Monday of February, 1860, resulting as follows: E. H. Barnard, probate judge; William S. Wilson, sheriff; H. C. Campbell, treasurer; J. F. Reynolds, county clerk; George Turner, George Turton and Thomas Fitzsimmons, commissioners.

It was settled that Fremont was to be the permanent county seat, but it was six years later—April, 1866—before any move was made toward providing the county with suitable buildings in which to keep its various offices. In June, 1866, the specifications for a courthouse by John Ray were accepted. Lots 1 and 2, block 155, having been selected for the site of the buildings. A good two-story brick courthouse was erected thereon, the same being forty by sixty feet, and it was completed in the winter of 1867-68, being accepted in January the last-named year. Its cost was \$11,800. A jail was built in 1875, costing \$15,000. (See COUNTY GOVERNMENT chapter.)

CHAPTER VI

DODGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY ORGANIZATION PERFECTED—PROSECUTING ATTORNEY AND COUNTY ATTORNEY SYSTEMS—ACTS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—MAKING OF FIRST PRECINCTS—FIRST ROAD DISTRICTS—NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS—CREATION OF “TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION”—FIRST COUNTY SUPERVISORS—THE BURNING OF COURTHOUSE IN 1887—BUILDING A NEW COURTHOUSE—SECOND COURTHOUSE FIRE, 1915—PRESENT STRUCTURE—THE NEW JAIL—HIGHWAYS—BRIDGES—LADIES’ REST ROOMS—PROPERTY VALUATIONS—COUNTY FINANCES—BOARDS’ ESTIMATE, 1891—COUNTY TREASURER’S REPORT, 1892—COUNTY SEAT AND COUNTY BUILDINGS—COURTHOUSES AND JAILS—BIDS FOR PRESENT COURTHOUSE—DEDICATION—COUNTY POOR FARM—COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1920—COUNTY OFFICERS’ SALARIES—TAXES—ASSESSED VALUATIONS—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR 1920—STATE AND COUNTY LEVIES—AVERAGE VALUE FARM LANDS, 1920.

After the organization of this county had been perfected and the machinery set in motion usually speaking Dodge County has been a well governed subdivision of Nebraska. True, in early days, under the old and somewhat crude form of territorial government, matters were not cared for as they have been since statehood was obtained. The pioneer forms used under the original county commissioner court system here were patterned from those brought from eastern and middle states, from which many of the Dodge County pioneers came, with a number from Ohio. The affairs of the county were administered by the commissioners’ court until “Township Organization” came into operation in 1886 by the popular vote of the people of this county. By this plan each civil township or precinct is entitled to at least one representative on a board of supervisors. The officers of clerk of the court and county clerk were one office up to 1869 (except in 1860-61).

The original office of district attorney was changed to that of county attorney in 1888.

The county commissioners were the guardians of the people for a third of a century. They were three in number, representing three various districts of the county. Their assembling at the county seat was termed “County Commissioners Court.” The following constituted some of their more important acts:

ACTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The first board of county commissioners consisted of William E. Lee, Thomas Fitzsimmons and L. C. Baldwin. They first met (the last named not present) “at the house of Batie and Blinn’s at Fontanelle, Dodge County, Nebraska Territory,” January 6, 1857. This was while Fontanelle was yet included in Dodge County—the change of boundaries taking place in 1860. The order of their first business was:

- First—Dividing the county into districts.
- Second—Dividing the county into precincts.

Third—Dividing the county into road districts.

Fourth—Appointing of officers.

Fifth—Approving of official bonds.

Sixth—Locating public highways.

Upon motion of Commissioner William E. Lee, the county was divided into three precincts bounded as follows: No. 1. All that portion of the county east of the Elkhorn River. No. 2. All that portion of the county between the Platte River and the line running west from the Elkhorn on the township line between township 17 and 18 to the west line of the county. No. 3. All territory lying north and west of said line.

The road districts—five in number—were under the care of the following supervisors: No. 1, E. H. Barnard; No. 2, "Mr." Miller, of North Bend; No. 3, David Bloomer; No. 4, Hiram H. Ladd; No. 5, I. Warner.

April 6, 1857, the commissioners met and created the precinct of "Logan" and designated the place for the first election to be at C. H. Liser's. The judges were to be Hiram H. Ladd, Willis Carr and Martin Sherer.

At the same session they also created "Fremont" precinct and fixed the place of election at the house of Barnard and Kuntz at Fremont Village. The judges were E. H. Rogers, Jackson Davis and A. McNeal.

The commissioners in 1858 were Thomas Fitzsimmons, W. E. Lee and C. A. Whiteford. In June of that year they assisted in the organization of Platte County; also of Monroe County; their chief business, however, being looking after county roads and routine work of no great historic interest. At the August meeting they authorized the sheriff of the county to proceed to assess the taxable property within Dodge County.

The commissioners for 1859 were Thomas Fitzsimmons, C. A. Whiteford and J. M. Hancock. At the January session they created "Maple Creek" precinct and ordered a bridge built over the Elkhorn River to cost \$1,500; ordered the making of a county seal to be paid for in county warrants at not less than 75 cents on the dollar. In July they fixed the assessment at 6 mills per dollar. In August they created "Bell Creek" precinct.

From October, 1859 to 1860, the board consisted of Thomas Fitzsimmons, G. A. Turton and Jared Blasett. John Evans appeared before them and gave bonds as county registrar of deeds. The treasurer's report made to the board was as follows:

Territorial fund	\$300.00
County fund	624.00
School fund	201.20
Poll and road fund	397.18
 Total	 \$1,522.38

The commissioners were George Turner, Thomas Fitzsimmons and George Turton. The Minute Book shows an exhibit of Dodge County taxes for that year as follows:

Territorial taxes	\$167.00
County taxes	972.00
School taxes	214.00
Poll and road tax	831.00

In 1862: During this year the board was George Turner, Thomas Wilson and W. H. Ely, who met at the "Valley House," Fremont.

In 1863 the board met at the clerk's office and in 1864 at the Congregational Church building. During the Civil war but little business of interest was transacted.

January 1, 1866, the board was George Turner, J. E. Dorsey and George Young. During that year the building of a courthouse, or county house, was agitated. J. J. Hawthorne offered the county block No. 96, at Fremont, for such building site and a building was finally advertised for. It was to be 30 by 60 feet, built of frame and boards. In July they contracted for 125,000 brick suitable for a foundation, paying \$12 per thousand for the same.

These plans were discarded and at the October session that year the board decided to build a brick courthouse, which they did. (See courthouse history elsewhere.)

In 1867 commissioners were Christopher Knoell, George Young and George Turner.

In 1868 the commissioners were Robert Graham, A. C. Briggs and George Turner. A room in the southwest part of the courthouse was fixed up suitable for jail purposes. They also submitted the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad bond question to the voters of the county. It resulted in a majority for, of 185 votes out of 413 votes polled. The same year the board rented a room of the county building for the use of a printing office, to A. S. McAlister. They also required the following official bonds to be filed: County treasurer, \$25,000; county clerk, \$8,000; sheriff, \$5,000; probate judge, \$5,000.

In 1869 the commissioners were Robert Graham, George Blanchard and A. C. Briggs. One hundred and twenty-five thousands dollars in railroad bonds were approved by this board for the aid in securing the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad. The popular vote was—for 432 and 120 against the proposition. These bonds drew 8 per cent interest and run twenty years.

In 1870 the precinct of "Webster" was created at the June meeting. At the November meeting when John P. Eaton, George Blanchard and A. C. Briggs were on the board, Fremont Township voted bonds in the sum of \$50,000 for a bridge over the Platte River, which caused the board much work.

In 1871 the board was composed of John Eaton, J. J. Hawthorne and A. C. Briggs. During that year the old courthouse was remodeled, plastered, etc. In 1872 "Everett" precinct was formed by the board.

In 1874 the board was as follows: John C. Seeley, F. M. Tillman and B. Nicodemus. They advertised for bids for the erection of a jail in August of that year. Finally McShane, Quimby and Clagg, of Omaha, received the contract at \$9,832 for the building of a brick jail.

In 1875 when Theron Nye, F. M. Tillman and John C. Seeley were on the board "Elkhorn" precinct was formed. Also "Platte" precinct.

In 1878 the commissioners looked after the interest of the North Bend precinct which had voted bonds to the amount of \$7,000 for the building of roads.

In 1881 the board was as follows: E. C. Burns, H. J. Lee and Milton May. During that year \$10,000 bonds were issued for building a portion of the Platte River bridge. These bonds were for twenty years at 7 per cent interest.

In 1882 Commissioners J. H. Caldwell, Milton May and H. J. Lee looked after the North Bend bridge bonds voted to the amount of \$10,000, running twenty years at 7 per cent interest.

In 1884, when the board was composed of J. H. Caldwell, M. Weich and Milton May, a contract was let to A. Zimmerman for the erection of a county poor house to cost \$3,645. July 3d, that year, a severe storm damaged the courthouse to the extent that the county clerk send word to the board to meet at once. Upon meeting they decided to repair temporarily and then arrange for building a new courthouse. The matter came up to the people at the following election.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Eighteen eighty-six ushered in a new era in the government of Dodge County, for it was during that year that the people voted in favor of "Township Organization," after which time they were to be represented by a Board of County Supervisors instead of County Commissioners. By the new plan a supervisor was to be elected from each township in the county. All but the months of November and December of 1886 was under the old commissioner system, the first Board of Supervisors meeting in November. The last commissioners were J. H. Caldwell, George C. Laird and M. Weich, while the first Board of Supervisors was composed of M. Weich, John P. Dierks, William E. Lee, A. E. Jensen, F. M. Tillman, H. E. Wolcott, H. H. Robinson, J. B. Foote, John Emanuel, J. A. Sill, B. F. Laird, H. Christy, James S. Jennings and Nels Johnson.

The first important act of the newly constituted board was to reorganize the precincts into "Township Organizations." By that act the civil subdivisions were set apart and bounded by the lines of the Congressional townships, except along the Platte and Elkhorn rivers, where they remained fractional as before. A few slight changes were subsequently made, but for the most part they were bounded as they appear on the county's plat books today.

In 1887 a report was made by the overseer of the poor to the county board in which it stated the number of paupers then to be eighteen. In that year the board created the office of county physician and ordered two steel cages for uncontrollable insane people at the poorhouse.

The last day of the year 1887 was an unfortunate day for the county, as it was then that it sustained a loss of more than \$3,000 in the partial burning of the courthouse. Many valuable books were lost and much expense incurred in making transcripts by experts for court records.

The supervisors rewarded the firemen for the faithful work at the courthouse fire by presenting them with \$60 in cash. Three hundred dollars were spent in trying to locate and arrest the person who set the fire, but all to no purpose—it still remains a mystery.

In March, 1888, the chairman of the board was H. G. Wolcott.

The material left from the fire of December, 1887, was offered for sale by the board. That year George W. Davy was paid \$1,200 for reproducing new court record books and papers to take the place of those lost in the fire. It was during this year (1888) that the board had its mind occupied with planning for a new courthouse. (See Courthouse History.)

It was in this year that the board was called to act in the case of trying to enforce the state law compelling the Union Pacific trains within Dodge County to stop at all railroad crossings, as two persons met with accidents and one was killed at such crossings within ten days' time. The board entered suit against the company.

In 1890 the chairman of the board was W. D. Thomas. The committee on county buildings was M. Weich, A. P. Shephard and H. Christy.

It appears from statements made in board meetings in 1890-91 that the manner of keeping the county's records has materially improved after 1887-88.

In 1892 A. J. Sill was chairman of the board and J. H. Fletcher was appointed overseer of the poor at a salary of \$50 a month.

Up to 1893 the Minute Books of the Commissioners and Board of County Supervisors had reached five in number and were devoted to all manner of resolutions and business transactions connected with the hundreds of wagon roads and no less of bridges, public ditches, county buildings, with other improvements needful to the safety and comfort of the people of the county. But with the expenditure of much money in way of taxes, the people were benefited and the increased value in lands and town property proved this assertion. And what was true thirty years ago is doubly true of the advancement made since that date.

With the passing years the supervisors have been kept busy looking after the establishment and maintenance of public roads, drainage ditch systems and the general routine of county improvements, including the erection and repair of public buildings and the hundreds of highway crossings and bridges.

The supervisors have always tried to spend the money paid into their treasury to the best advantage of the taxpayers—giving value received. And even the general comfort of the people has been looked after in the providing of ladies' rest rooms in the basement (first floor) of the new courthouse. At first this room or set of rooms was furnished and cared for by the Retail Business Men's Association of Fremont, which society paid the expenses for a year or more until these rooms had been proven a success, after which the county board took them over and really cares for most of the expenses of keeping them up. They are duly appreciated by ladies of this county, as well as "strangers within the gates."

CONCERNING TAXES

All taxes become due November 1st each year.

Taxes become a first lien on real property October 1st.

Taxes become a first lien on personal property November 1st.

Personal taxes become delinquent December 1st, after due.

Real estate taxes become delinquent May 1st, after due.

Real estate advertised for sale for taxes October 1st, after due.

Real estate is sold for taxes the first Monday in November.

Taxes draw 10 per cent interest after delinquency.

Tax sales certificates draw 15 per cent interest.

Personal assessments are made in April and May of each year.

Real estate is valued every four years and equalized every two years.

ASSESSED VALUATIONS—1919

(Townships)

	Assessed Value	Mills	Levy
Union	\$679,881	10	
Pleasant Valley	443,781	14	
Webster (including Dodge and Snyder) ..	703,837	12	
Ridgeley	602,521	14	
Cottrell	677,353	12	
Platte	860,115	12	
Maple	455,798	10	
Everett	497,356	6	

DODGE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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	Assessed Value	Mills Levy
Cuming (including Scribner).....	\$645,971	14
Logan (including Uehling).....	587,396	14
Hooper (including Hooper and Winslow).....	790,969	14
Nickerson (including Nickerson).....	558,919	8
Elkhorn	425,822	12

CITIES AND TOWNS WITH RAILWAY TERMINALS

	Assessed Value	Mills Levy
Fremont	\$2,179,132	55
North Bend	288,245	35
Dodge	114,855	35
Snyder	104,146	25
Scribner	234,100	50
Uehling	75,422	25
Hooper	206,880	45
Nickerson	48,880	13
Winslow	48,543	20
Total of county (1919-20).....	\$10,669,623	
Total railway terminals.....	301,657	

STATE AND COUNTY LEVIES—1920

	(State Levy)	Mills
General fund		4.80
University		1.00
State aid bridge.....		.20
Special university fund.....		.75
Normal school		1.00
Capitol building fund.....		1.50
State aid road.....		3.00
University act fund.....		.75
Total		13.00 mills
	(County Levy)	
General fund		7.07
Bridge		4.00
Emergency bridge		1.00
Road		2.07
Drainage .....		.80
Soldier's relief .....		.06
Courthouse bonds		1.00
Total		16.00 mills

AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM LANDS—1920

The county clerk recently published the following concerning the farm lands in Dodge County—the same being for assessment purposes:

Per Acre

In Union Township	\$76
In Pleasant Valley Township.....	79

	Per Acre
In Pebble Township	\$ 76
In Ridgeley Township	85
In Cotterell Township	78
In Cuming Township	77
In Maple Township	84
In Everett Township	82
In Platte Township	91
In Hooper Township	80
In Logan Township	85
In Nickerson Township	85
In Elkhorn Township	71
In Webster Township	89
Total estimate for school purposes (not including bond levy), \$260,-	
176.73.	

The school bond levy is \$17,555.11.

PROPERTY VALUATIONS

At various periods the property valuations in Dodge County have been as follows (figures from official reports made to the state auditor):

In the year 1870 the assessed valuation was.....	\$1,910,000
In the year 1878 the assessed valuation was.....	2,319,000
In the year 1885 the assessed valuation was.....	3,160,000
In the year 1891 the assessed valuation was.....	3,162,000

Twenty-nine years ago (1891) when property was being assessed at about one-third of its actual value, the record shows the following valuation of all realty and personal property by townships and precincts:

Cotterell	\$145,706	Pebble	\$104,113
Cuming	131,606	Pleasant Valley	95,944
Elkhorn	77,015	Platte	151,308
Everett	98,494	Ridgeley	95,629
Hooper	71,871	Union	116,625
Logan	105,904	Webster	105,613
Maple	107,030	Fremont (city)	824,844
Nickerson	110,830	North Bend (city).....	112,600

Coming down to the present time the records show the following property valuations in the county; also the value in various townships and cities and villages, as a whole:

The total assessed valuation in the various townships in this county in 1919 was \$7,930,019.

The assessed valuations in cities and towns with the railway terminals was \$2,378,980.

THE COUNTY'S FINANCES

It is now about sixty years since the county was really organized and the following statements as to its finances show its condition at the end of the first thirty years (1890), and that of 1920, thirty years later.

In 1860 the county treasurer's report for Dodge County read as follows:

Territorial fund	\$308.80
County fund	612.12
School fund	201.20
Poll and road fund.....	397.94
Total	\$1,512.06

BOARD'S ESTIMATE IN 1891

Bonded indebtedness, liberality towards railroad enterprises, bridges, drainage and county buildings, had brought the following demands by the close of the year 1890:

County general fund	\$35,000
County bridge fund	18,000
County sinking fund	3,500
County insane fund	2,000
County road fund	2,000
Courthouse fund	4,000
Interest on railroad bonds	12,000
Interest on bridge bonds	7,500
Soldier's relief fund.....	1,050
 Total	 \$85,050

COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT

The county treasurer's report for the last half of the year 1891 shows the following balances:

Balance general fund (state).....	\$ 4,232
Balance county road fund	873
Balance insane fund	441
Balance soldier's relief fund	762
Balance general school district fund.....	10,960
Balance general road district fund.....	1,850
To balance on hand.....	49,750
Total disbursements	108,397

COUNTY TREASURER'S SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT—1920

The subjoined is a statement issued to the public by the county treasurer of Dodge County for the first six months of the year 1920:

	July, 1920	
	Disbursements	Balance
State general fund paid.....	\$38,317.52	\$5,202.30
State capitol fund	11,904.18	1,618.50
State university fund	8,004.87	1,085.21
Special university fund.....	5,952.08	809.25
State land fund interest paid.....	12.60	
State aid bridge fund.....	1,600.17	216.96
Special university building fund.....	57.50	Overdraft
State normal school fund	7,993.45	1,083.75
State university activities fund.....	5,993.37	812.33
State institution improvement fund	77.70	Overdraft
State aid road fund.....	23,844.11	3,239.67
State highway fund	40,948.86	1,225.50
State hail insurance fund.....	434.24	
County general fund	62,732.74	10,953.90
County bridge fund	14,076.42	22,725.44
County road fund	19,494.65	17,143.01
County sinking fund .....		.11
County drainage fund	4,909.54	6,204.29

	Disbursements	July, 1920 Balance
Special emergency bridge warrants.....	\$ 667.13	\$ 18,753.12
Soldier's relief committee fund	1,157.70	2,213.48
School district—general	200,005.27	59,364.75
School district—bonds	15,835.09	11,760.02
Township—general	67,060.87	44,055.09
Road district—general	5,695.74	8,075.56
Fremont Corporation	80,109.71	6,214.83
North Bend Corporation.....	6,737.81	745.65
Hooper Corporation	7,005.10	1,490.59
Scribner Corporation	8,025.03	3,556.79
Dodge Corporation	4,196.96	798.59
Snyder Corporation	2,252.29	267.29
Winslow Corporation	618.02	467.85
Uehling Corporation	1,139.17	829.14
Nickerson Corporation	614.97	76.82
Fremont old precinct bridge bond.....	.01	.11
Special assessment	4.45	335.29
Advertising		33.60
Redemption fund	1,204.40	205.71
Protest fund		30,931.06
Poor farm fund.....	3,397.49	
Fine and license fund.....	1,500.00	1,231.65
Fee fund	12,349.06	140.50
F. F. & R. R. Drainage Dist.....	1,388.42	278.68
GENERAL PURPOSES		
F. F. & R. R. Drainage Dist.....	321.39	22.53
BONDS AND INTEREST		
Inheritance tax fund.....	1,608.89	9,522.94
Auto license fund.....	13,862.03	351.71
Elkhorn drainage district.....	97.67	4,671.74
Courthouse bonds	18,705.00	6,637.96
Bloomendalh ditch	121.65	Overdraft
Scott ditch	4.77	219.23
Lincoln Highway Fund No. 1.....		3,731.99
Disbursements to June 30, 1920.....	\$702,041.09	
Balance on hand July 1, 1920.....	289,304.49	\$289,304.49
Less overdrafts	\$ 8,836.18	

COUNTY SEAT AND COUNTY BUILDING

Fontanelle was the first county seat (when that place was within Dodge County), but in the winter of 1859-60 the Territorial Legislature changed the bounds of this county and in February, 1860, the Dodge County voters fixed Fremont as the seat of justice. Upon that occasion the vote stood: Fremont, sixty-two; Robinsonville, two; Blacksmith's Point, one.

A private house at Fontanelle served as a business office for the county. Much bitterness was engendered between Fontanelle and Fremont over the county seat fight. When the books came to be removed,

much trouble was experienced by the county officers, but as time heals all troubles like county seat contests, this was almost forgotten by the second generation.

Fremont has held the county seat, although a few attempts have been made to change its location, one of which was in 1884, when it was sought at various points, and the matter was finally submitted to a vote of the people in charge of the County Commissioners' Court, and this was the last important act this body had to attend to, before going out of office and the ushering in of the Township Organization system. The vote on relocating the county seat stood as follows:

	For Fremont	For Centerville
Fremont (city)	1,206	8
Platte (precinct)	87	14
Elkhorn "	92	
Maple "	83	36
Hooper "	24	181
Pebble "	80	185
Logan "	8	74
Cuming "	12	73
North Bend "	202	81
Everett "		224
Webster "	3	162
Union "	1	180
 Totals	 1,798	 1,218

COUNTY BUILDINGS—COURTHOUSES, JAILS, ETC.

For the first ten years after Dodge County was organized it had no public buildings, worthy the name. Log cabins, and sod houses must needs be used before the pioneer is able and justified in building better buildings, either public or private. Most counties settled in the "fifties" and "sixties" did the same as Dodge County, but in due season excellent buildings were erected. Here, the county offices were kept quietly in some private house or later in leased apartments.

The question of building a suitable courthouse came up at the January session of the Commissioners' Court in 1866, when the commissioners were—George Turner, J. E. Dorsey and George Young. Block No. 96 of the City of Fremont was offered the county by pioneer J. J. Hawthorne, as a building site, and finally it was accepted and bids solicited for the erection of a courthouse, to be 30 by 60 feet. This was to be built of lumber, but later the matter was entirely discarded, and in October that year, 1866, the commissioners decided to build a brick courthouse on the present public square. Such a building was erected, the contract being awarded to John Ray at \$4,950, by the commissioners, Messrs. Christopher Knoell, George Young and George Turner. It was finished and accepted September 3, 1867. This structure served until 1871 without repairs. At that date it was remodeled and was in good form until a windstorm in 1884 damaged it, and December 31, 1887, a portion of it was burned, together with the records in the clerk of the court's offices. Repairs were temporarily made and in 1888 the question of building a new courthouse was submitted to the people, and the result was that the people declared for bonding the county in the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of erecting a good courthouse. In addition to this, the city of Fremont voted the



OLD COURTHOUSE, FREMONT, DESTROYED BY FIRE—DECEMBER 5, 1915.

sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) with the understanding that the city should have the use of three rooms in the proposed structure for city purposes for a term not exceeding five years.

Sixteen bids were received, and the commissioners accepted that of Seeley Sons & Co. of Fremont. The contract for the naked building was \$50,533.50. It was an elegant pressed brick building, finished in hard wood, heated by furnaces, and had cheerful rooms for every county official.

At the corner-stone laying Dr. L. J. Abbott was chosen to deliver the oration which was a masterly effort and too lengthy for reproduction here. The completed structure was dedicated October 4, 1890, when Hon. E. F. Gray delivered an eloquent address, the closing paragraph of which runs thus: "This building is worthy of the wise generosity of the whole people who have contributed the funds for its erection. May their records be kept correctly and herein preserved."

From almost any reasonable human standpoint, it would have appeared at that time that the building of which Mr. Gray was then speaking, would stand intact and do service in Dodge County for a century, but alas, not so, for it must be recorded that on December 5, 1915, this beautiful temple of justice was so nearly destroyed by fire, originating in the basement, that its entire walls had to be taken down and an entirely new structure from the ground up erected. Even the old foundation stones were found to be in bad condition so a new wall was run up on which rests the present magnificent building. Quite an amount of public records were also entirely destroyed, but the principal books were all saved. The loss in this respect was not nearly so great as in the fire that consumed the other courthouse.

Immediately after the burning of the courthouse in December, 1915, the supervisors made arrangements with the owners of the First National Bank Building on the corner of Main and Fifth streets by which the county removed its chief offices to this massive building, for which they paid a rental of \$295 per annum for the period the new building was being constructed.

The bids for the present courthouse were advertised for January 22, 1917, and the lowest suitable bidders were Olson and Johnson Company, of Missoula, Montana. The contract price made with this firm was \$119,675. The architects employed by the county were members of the firm of A. H. Dyer Company. The building is faced with Bedford limestone from the celebrated quarries in Lawrence County, Indiana. The detailed contract is found in Minute Book No. 12, page 30, of the County Supervisor's records.

One of the provisions was that the building should be entirely completed by February 1, 1918, which provision was substantially carried out. This building is scarcely equalled in all Nebraska. Its exterior as well as interior are indeed models of beauty and strength. The solid Bedford stone surfacing the exterior and the pure marble and granite of the interior of the building render the whole absolutely "fire proof." A further description in a county history is hardly necessary as this structure will doubtless stand intact long after this volume has perished with usage and time's touch. This building stands as its own best memorial.

COUNTY JAILS

Before Dodge County had a courthouse, prisoners were kept in some dwelling house improvised for jail purposes. When the first court-

house was built, two rooms were set apart for jail use. In 1874, Commissioners Nicodemus, Tillman and Seeley awarded a contract to an Omaha firm for the sum of \$9,832, to construct a county jail which was used until 1918. This jail was a two story brick building and it stood on the south side of the courthouse square. A portion of it was used as a residence for the sheriff of the county, or his deputy.

When the new (present) courthouse was constructed, its specifications included a jail situated on the upper floor, as it remains at this time. It is a fine, sanitary jail where prisoners may be safely kept and with less expense than in a separate building.

COUNTY POOR FARM

No better index can be had of the true character of a people than to note its respect for its departed dead, and its care for its unfortunate poor. As the county settled up with a mixed population the poor classes came in as well as those in better circumstances, and by 1884 it was decided to not try to care for the paupers of Dodge County by township appropriations, etc., but the commissioners purchased a Poor Farm in section 26, township 18, range 8 (Nickerson civil township). The place mentioned had been leased by the county several years before that date and partly sustained the pauper element in the county. In 1887 the total number of paupers of this county was eighteen. The county farm just named is about four miles to the north and a little east of Fremont. The inmates who are able to labor are supposed to work a part of their time, but no task-master is placed over these unfortunate men and women, but all are treated well and given good homes so long as they remain citizens of the county. The present condition of the farm and the pauper element of Dodge County is in keeping with the times in which we live. Each supervisor district is looked after by its supervisor, so far as caring for the unfortunate poor is concerned. The last (1919) report of the Poor Farm shows there are only eight men and two women inmates in the Dodge County Poor House. J. W. Sexson was steward of the Poor Farm many years and was succeeded in January, 1919, by the present steward, J. H. Randall, who is proving the right man in the right place, as well as his wife, who is present stewardess.

A report made April 15, 1920, shows the following concerning the Poor Farm and its belongings:

The invoice shows 44 head of cattle, valued at \$2,405; 16 hogs, valued at \$595; 10 horses, valued at \$1,125; 4 harness, valued at \$120; 9 tons of hay, valued at \$32; oats and corn, valued at \$774; hogs slaughtered, valued at \$315; merchandise on hand, valued at \$25; miscellaneous, valued at \$123; machinery, valued at \$1,017.

The disbursements for the Poor Farm for the last year were: Dry goods, etc., \$214; coal and oil, \$664; hardware, \$111; groceries, \$929; lumber, \$109; labor and hauling, \$380; veterinary, \$241; repairs, \$248; live stock, \$256; corn and hay, etc., \$2,390; meats, \$56; ice used, \$12; windmill, \$212; drugs, \$35; harness, \$43; salary Steward, \$1,400. The total disbursements over the receipts of the farm were \$3,547.23.

DODGE COUNTY OFFICIALS—1920

Treasurer—Joseph Roberts
Deputy Treasurer—M. H. Woslager
Bookkeeper—Charlotte Lake

Stenographer—Hanna Ohlson
 Clerk—W. E. Barz
 Deputy Clerk—H. J. Arundel
 Stenographer—Allie P. Wegner
 Judge—Waldo Wintersteen
 Clerk of County Court—Marie Carstens
 Registrar of Deeds—Ernest Hahn
 Deputy Registrar of Deeds—Effie H. Hahn
 Clerk District Court—Peter T. Mitterling
 Deputy District Clerk—Kittie Armstead
 County Assessor—John O'Connor
 Record Clerk—Georgia O'Connor
 County Attorney—J. C. Cook
 Stenographer—Pauline Kendrick
 Superintendent—J. E. Marsh
 Clerk of Superintendent—Esther Knapp
 Sheriff—W. C. Condit
 Deputy Sheriff—W. A. Johnson
 Stenographer—Marguerite Haven
 Surveyor—W. M. Sanders
 Physician—F. E. Calkins, M. D.
 Highway Commissioner—W. M. Sanders
 Superintendent Courthouse—L. G. Windsor
 Steward Poor Farm—J. H. Randall
 Purchasing Agent—A. W. Murphy
 Distributing Agent—H. J. Arundel

COUNTY OFFICERS' SALARIES PER ANNUM

County Treasurer.....	\$3,000	Precinct Assessors, per day..	\$ 5
Deputy Treasurer.....	1,500	County Attorney.....	1,800
Two clerks.....	2,000	Stenographer	900
Clerk of District Court.....	3,000	County Superintendent.....	2,400
Deputy Clerk	900	Stenographer	900
Proofreader	60	County Surveyor, per day and mileage	8
County Clerk.....	2,800	County Highway Commis- sioner	1,800
Deputy Clerk.....	1,500	County Sheriff	2,000
Stenographer	1,200	Deputy Sheriff	1,200
County Judge.....	2,500	Stenographer	600
Clerk of County Court.....	1,200	Steward Poor Farm.....	1,200
Proofreader	200	Stewardess Poor Farm.....	300
Registrar of Deeds.....	2,000	Custodian Courthouse.....	1,380
Deputy Registrar.....	900	County Supervisors, per day and mileage added.....	5
County Assessor.....	700		
Chief Clerk, per day (four). .	4		
Clerk, per day (three).....	3		

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR 1920

In after years it may be of no little interest to know who has charge of the affairs of county government in this county, hence this list of supervisors is inserted in this connection, the same constituting the members in 1920:

M. A. Uehling, Hooper: District No. 1—Logan, Hooper and Nickerson.

P. J. Flanagan, Snyder: District No. 2—Everett, Cuming and Pebble.
F. J. Stecher, Dodge: District No. 3—Webster, Pleasant Valley and Union.

Fred Scott, North Bend: District No. 4—North Bend, Cotterell and Ridgeley.

Maurice Nelson, Fremont: District No. 5—Maple, Platte and Elkhorn.

A. W. Murphy, Fremont: District No. 6—Second and Third Wards, Fremont.

Oscar Widman, Fremont: District No. 7—First and Fourth Wards.
Chairman—A. W. Murphy; Clerk, W. E. Barz.

Each Supervisor has direct charge of all matters within his respective district.

CHAPTER VII

THE RAILROADS OF DODGE COUNTY

(By L. D. RICHARDS)

VALUE OF RAILROADS—THE UNION PACIFIC RAILWAY AND ITS CONSTRUCTION—LIST OF NEBRASKA LAND GRANTS—SPEECHES MADE IN STARTING THE CONSTRUCTION—WORK OF GENERAL DODGE—INTERESTING INCIDENTS—COST TO DODGE COUNTY—OLD SIOUX CITY AND PACIFIC—OLD FREMONT, ELKHORN AND MISSOURI VALLEY—DIVERGING BRANCHES—THE BUILDING OF THE LATEST RAILROAD, THE “BURLINGTON” FROM LINCOLN TO SIOUX CITY, IOWA. MILEAGE.

While it is true that many of the first settlements in the West were effected before the railroad was built through that section of the country, it is also true that no great growth attended such settlements until the shrill whistle of the locomotive echoed and reverberated over forest and plains. The pioneers of Dodge County were not “blind spinners” stopping wherever they found it most convenient, but they very wisely surveyed the landscape, the geography and topography of the county and concluded that in the near future the West was to have railway transportation, and with a prophetic eye looked ahead to a time when the Mississippi and Missouri valleys were to be connected with iron highways through the West to the far away Pacific Ocean. When that time came they felt that the Platte Valley was the only natural course for a railway from Omaha to the Great Salt Lake Valley to take, hence with no small degree of certainty they cast their stakes within what has come to be Dodge County, its county seat now having come to be quite a large railroad center.

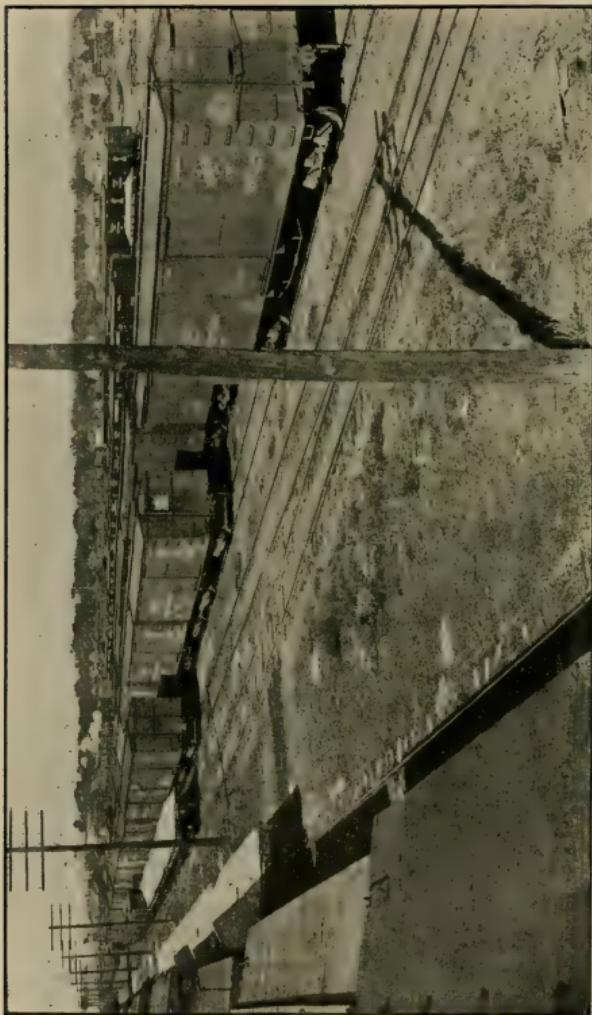
The settlement was made in 1856-57 and for another decade or more the county was without railway connections east or west, north or south. This had been unexpectedly put off on account of the coming on of the Civil war between 1861 and 1866. During 1866 the activities along the Union Pacific road were indeed almost magic in their accomplishments. It marked a new historic era in this county and Nebraska in general. Hundreds of familes wended their way hither and home-building was seen on every hand.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The first railroad to cross the domain of Dodge County, Nebraska, was the Union Pacific. The subjoined gives a short general and local history of its construction:

The greatest stride ever accomplished in railroad building (considering the times in which it was accomplished) was when the Union Pacific was constructed from Council Bluffs, Iowa, west to Ogden, Utah, where it connected with the Central Pacific line from San Francisco, California.

This road had been contemplated back in the fifties and President Lincoln stood on the bluffs on the east side of the Missouri River at



RAILROAD YARDS AT FREMONT

Council Bluffs, in 1859 and really selected the point at which this road should cross the river, the same being where now stands that wonderful iron and steel structure over which daily run so many freight and passenger trains.

By an act of Congress in the fifties, millions of acres of land were given to various corporations to construct steam railroads across this continent. These roads as later known, included the Union Pacific, the Kansas Pacific and other trunk lines from east to west. The aggregate of lands in Nebraska granted to the Union Pacific Company was 5,926,400 acres. All were contiguous to this line of railway and in Lincoln County the acreage was greater than in any other county in this state—690,000 acres.

The Union Pacific lands were placed at prices and on terms that brought them within the reach of any man who was disposed to work and had energy and industry and desired to secure a good farm home. The range of prices for these railroad lands was indeed wide in the extreme. They were fixed according to location, soil and general surroundings. They could be purchased at from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per acre. They were sold on ten years' time, with one-tenth down, the remainder in equal annual payments at six per cent interest, and when parties wished to pay cash down, a discount of ten per cent was made. By 1880 a large share of the best of these lands had been put under cultivation. Land exploring tickets were sold at low rates, while the actual buyer was transported free of charge. Also liberal discounts were made for shipping emigrant goods. Immigrant houses, as they were called, were provided at a moderate cost, to such as were not able to immediately settle on their purchase.

It is needless to go into further detail concerning the construction of the Union Pacific Railway, so far as its original Congressional Bill is concerned, suffice to remark that after running the gauntlet of postponements and amendments it was finally adopted, and became law, July, 1862. December 2, 1863, Peter A. Dey, chief engineer, received a telegram from New York, announcing that President Lincoln had authorized him to formally break ground, and that it had been decided to make Omaha the initial point of the proposed road across the continent from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast.

Business men and citizens of the towns of Council Bluffs and Omaha (for they were neither but small places) were hurriedly called together and planned for properly celebrating the event of commencing to build the much talked of and long delayed Union Pacific Railroad. The hour was fixed for two o'clock p.m. The day was pleasant and the sun shone brightly. Fully one thousand people were present at the spot named for digging the first shovelful of earth. Flags fluttered, people cheered, cannon boomed both on the eastern and western sides of the "Big Muddy" and "Old Glory" never floated more proudly than then to the pioneers of the "Missouri Slope." Rev. T. B. Lemon opened the exercises by prayer to Almighty God for His blessings on the undertakings of finite man. Then the chief engineer, assisted by Augustus Koontz, of Omaha, George Francis Train, of New York City, Dr. Atchison, of the Western Stage Company, and William E. Harvey, territorial auditor, Nebraska, with picks in hand, commenced to clear the ground preparatory to removing the shovelful of ground, which was done midst the loud and long cheers of the assembled throng, which was only drowned by the echo of the artillery on either side of the Missouri River. Following came the appropriate addresses of Governor Saunders, Mayor Kennedy, A. J. Poppleton, George Francis Train and others.

Preliminary work was begun and a call for one million ties for immediate use, and three million more within two years was received with ridicule, and no one believed that such a quantity could be obtained within so short a time, but the company declared they "*must be furnished by specified time.*" Good prices were offered and soon the railway ties began pouring in.

Some grading was executed in the autumn of 1864, but not until July 10, 1865, that the first rail of the system was laid along the bottoms between Cut-off Lake and the grade leading through the hills of Omaha. It was during that month that locomotive No. 1, named "General Sherman," arrived, having been freighted through up the Missouri River by steamboat. The second engine was named "General McPherson."

THE WORK OF GENERAL DODGE

To the late General Dodge of Civil war fame belongs the credit of forwarding the work, for he was the chief engineer in the construction of this great national thoroughfare. He once stated to the eastern capitalists that: "During the entire construction of the road, a relentless, determined war had been waged all along the line by tribes of the plains and no peace found until we had passed the hostile country and got beyond their reach.

"Every mile had to be made within range of muskets and there was not a moment of security. In making surveys numbers of men some of them the most able and promising were killed; and during our construction were run off by the hundreds; I may say by the thousands. As one difficulty after another was overcome in the engineering, running and construction departments a new era in railroading was inaugurated. Each day taught us a lesson by which we profited the next. Our advances and improvements on the art of railway construction were marked by the progress of the work."

It will be remembered that none of the Iowa roads had yet reached the Missouri River or Council Bluffs, hence all machinery and material, provisions and fuel, as well as men, had to be transferred at St. Louis to boats which were then run to Council Bluffs and Omaha. Railroad ties (on account of treeless Nebraska) had to be brought a long route and cost the company as high as \$2.50 each. Thus it will be seen that the construction of this iron highway was very great and was built under adverse circumstances. All through from Omaha to the Rocky Mountains track-laying averaged about four miles per day. No such record in the world's history had ever equalled this. Old Civil war soldiers, for the main, were the laborers who performed this magic feat.

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT

The pages of the Omaha Herald, November 2, 1866, gave the following: The Platte River is bridged at Cottonwood Springs, Nebraska. This bridge would be valuable for taking over ties and telegraph poles and not less important would draw travel from Nebraska City. It passes over four channels, three of which are shallow and filled in and securely "spiled." The fourth was 400 feet wide with a swift current fifteen feet deep. This was crossed by twenty pontoon boats.

The Omaha Republican of May 10, 1866, congratulates the traveling public because the track is laid to the Missouri River on the east side

and passengers can now get directly on the ferry-boat, missing the disagreeable staging from Council Bluffs.

A regular train service was established early in 1866 and trains were running to Bridger's Pass by October, 1868. The first conductor on the Union Pacific was Grove Watson, deceased, and the second Augustus A. Egbert. The first station at Omaha was built near the present smelting works and B. T. C. Morgan was appointed agent January 1, 1866. By September, 1867, the great highway had become progressive enough to announce that "On and after next Sunday" all trains, passenger and freight, would run on Sundays as on week days. On May 20, 1868, it was announced through the Herald that passenger fare had been reduced from 10 cents to 7½ cents a mile. By this change the fare to Cheyenne, which had been \$51.50, became \$38.50.

Among the earliest local officials of the Union Pacific Railroad after its formal inauguration were: Webster Snyder, general superintendent; soon he was followed by Samuel B. Reed and later by C. G. Hammond. H. M. Hoxie, assistant superintendent; J. H. Congdon, general manager; S. H. H. Clark, general freight agent; Thomas L. Kimball, general passenger and ticket agent; T. E. Sickles, chief engineer, and William Huff, master mechanic.

The Union Pacific Railroad, constructed by the United States Government, cost Dodge County nothing, except the right-of-way, depot grounds, etc. Its main line from Omaha enters the county in Elkhorn Township, passes through Fremont and North Bend and so on up the great Platte Valley. The total main line mileage in Dodge County is twenty-five miles.

The Fremont Tribune files show that the first train service over the Union Pacific Railroad was had at Fremont in January, 1866, and the old Sioux City & Pacific line (now a part of the Northwestern system) made junction with the Union Pacific at Fremont February 12, 1868. In passing it may be added that the Western Union Telegraph line reached Fremont in 1860 and the shoe shop of Thomas Colson & Son was the first office, the younger Colson (Sireno B.) being operator and later the first agent of the Union Pacific, and reported the defeat and victories in Civil war days in Fremont.

THE SIOUX CITY & PACIFIC RAILROAD

The present officials of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company have upon request of the publishers kindly furnished the following narrative concerning the construction of the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad, which is now a part of the Northwestern system:

Under the provisions of the act of 1862 providing for the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, that company was authorized and required to construct a railroad and telegraph line from Sioux City to a connection with the Iowa branch of the Union Pacific Railroad whenever there should have been a line of railroad completed through Minnesota or Iowa to Sioux City. By the act of July 2, 1864, amending the original Union Pacific act the Union Pacific Railroad was released from the construction of said branch and any company organized or to be organized under the laws of Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota or Nebraska as should by the President of the United States be designated or approved for that purpose, was authorized to construct said branch and to receive lands and subsidy bonds to the same extent that the Union Pacific Railroad would have acquired for the construction thereof under the act of 1862.

It was further provided that if a railroad should not be completed to Sioux City across Iowa or Minnesota within eighteen months, then the company which should have been so designated might commence, continue and complete the construction of said Sioux City branch.

The Sioux City & Pacific Railroad Company was organized at Dubuque, Iowa, August 1, 1864, for the purpose of constructing the said branch and was by the President of the United States designated for that purpose. The corporators and first board of directors were Platt Smith, L. B. Crocker, M. K. Jesup, James F. Wilson, A. W. Hubbard, Charles A. Lombard, Frederick Schuchardt, William B. Allison and John I. Blair. John I. Blair was the first president of this company and W. W. Hamilton, secretary. The Sioux City & Pacific Company passed under control of Messrs. Blair, Ames, Lombard, Crocker, Bertram, Glidden and Williams and other stockholders in the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River Railroad and the money for the construction of the road was subscribed by them and their associates.

Construction was begun in the spring of 1867. The 6½ miles built by the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River Railroad Company, connecting Missouri Valley Junction with California Junction, was finished in August of that year. Track laying began at California Junction in September, 1867. Thirty-six miles were completed by the first day of December of that year and 49½ miles before the first of January, 1868. The track was completed into Sioux City in February, 1868. From California Junction to Fremont the line was finished in February, 1869. The cars were ferried across the Missouri River during the summer months and crossed on a temporary bridge during the winter months up to the fall of 1883, when the bridge was opened that had been built over the river. L. Burnett was the engineer in charge of construction and the superintendent of the road to January 1, 1878.

The Sioux City & Pacific Company received from the United States under its congressional grant, 42,500 acres of land and from the State of Nebraska through a consolidation with the Nebraska Air Line Railroad, 46,000 acres. It received from the United States Government a loan of 6 per cent bonds to the extent of \$16,000 per mile of road constructed from Sioux City to Fremont. It issued its own first mortgage bonds to the amount of \$1,628,000. The earnings of the road not being sufficient to pay the interest on these first mortgage bonds, the avails of the two land grants and the sale of town lots along the line were used to make up the deficiency. After these assets were exhausted the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River and Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska companies, through loans and other methods of assistance, made up the deficit until the sale of these last-named railroads in 1884. In 1880 the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska and the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River companies acquired by purchase, from the individual stockholders, over 90 per cent of the stock of the Sioux City company. This stock was in the treasury of the Iowa roads at the time of their purchase by the Chicago & Northwestern in 1884, and thus became the property of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company.

In addition to the foregoing article on this railway, it may be interesting to know something of a local company that figured in the matter at an early date:

To secure the line from Sioux City to Fremont via California Junction, bonds were issued to the amount of \$50,000, running twenty years. This line was the immediate cause of the reduction of freights from

Dodge County to the Missouri River and all points to the east of this. Prior to its construction the Union Pacific company charged 12 cents to carry a bushel of grain from Fremont to the river, a distance of only forty-five miles. The origin of this road came about in this manner: In 1867, a local company was formed and received a charter from the state in June of that year. This company did not propose to build the road but desired to shape its matters so that the lands belonging to Dodge County as well as Washington County, could be turned over to some man or competent corporation, who was finally John I. Blair. The incorporators of the company which was named the "Air Line Railway" were chiefly state officers and members of the Legislature. The bill providing for this road was drawn up by Judge Dundy, of Falls City, Nebraska; Thomas Kennard, then secretary of state; J. H. Bowen, clerk of the House; Thomas Majors, of Peru, Nebraska; William Daily, representative from Peru; Henry P. Beebe, of Dodge County, and Jesse Davis, president; Henry P. Beebe, vice president; J. H. Bowen, secretary, and Thomas Kennard, treasurer, being the officers. Fifty sections of land were granted for the purpose of building the road from the Missouri River to Fremont.

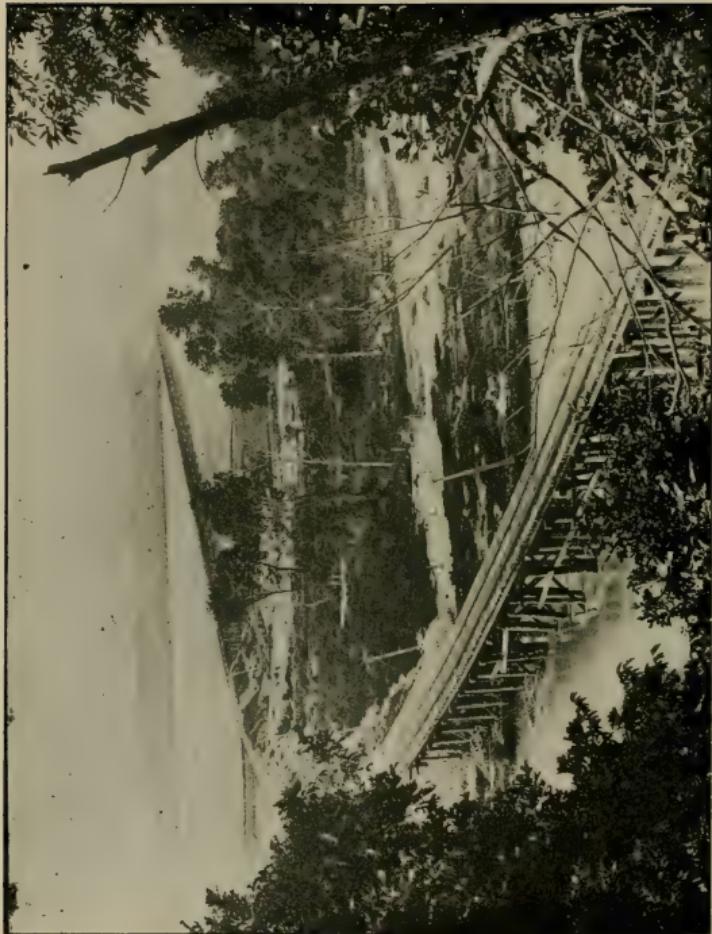
FREMONT, ELKHORN & MISSOURI VALLEY RAILROAD

This company was organized at Fremont, Nebraska, in January, 1869, to construct a line up the Elkhorn Valley, which was accomplished, and later it became a part of the Chicago & Northwestern system, as it is today. It was another one of the railroads promoted by John I. Blair, in 1869-70. To give a more comprehensive understanding of the causes that led to the building of this railroad, it should be stated that when Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867, there was a provision by which this commonwealth was to have 500,000 acres of the public domain and this was to be distributed by the Legislature of the state for internal improvements. A greater portion, of course, went toward the construction of railway lines. Among such lines was the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri road.

At first, a local or home company was incorporated, the articles of incorporation of which were prepared by Robert Kittle of Fremont, who was backed by almost the entire community, all being desirous of securing another railroad line. In September, 1869, public meetings were held and much interest was manifested.

From old paper files it is learned that November 5, 1869, the bells of Fremont were ringing loudly; all its flags and banners were given to the breeze, and a large procession, composed of all her leading citizens, both male and female, wended its way down "E" Street to Second, thence to the spot where the first ground was to be broken for the Elkhorn branch of the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad. The chairman for the occasion was E. H. Barnard, who mounted a wagon and spoke at length to the assembly.

Finally, bonds were voted by Dodge County in the sum of \$120,000 running for twenty years. With this for backing, a member of the local company went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and there met John I. Blair, who had already utilized the franchise of the Sioux City & Pacific road from Sioux City to Fremont. To Mr. Blair were given the above-named bonds and Dodge County's interest in the state lands set apart for this purpose and he in consideration of this went ahead and constructed that portion of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley road which runs from Fre-



VIEW ON "BURLINGTON" NEAR FREMONT

mont to Wisner, a distance of fifty miles. In 1880 the main line of this road was extended on west, the track reached Deadwood in 1890. The narrow gauge extension from Deadwood to Bald Mountain and Ruby Basin was opened up in 1891 and the Hot Springs branch in the same year.

The first ten miles of track north from Fremont were laid on this line late in the season of 1869 and an excursion was run over the track from Fremont January 1, 1870, during which year it reached West Point and was leased to the Sioux City & Pacific Company, which continued to operate it until August, 1884, when it passed into the hands of the Northwestern system.

Of the Wyoming extension of this road it should be stated that it was commenced in the summer of 1885. Track-laying was begun at Dakota Junction in April, 1886, and completed to Douglas that year. It reached Casper in June, 1888, and Lander, present terminus, early in the '90s.

In 1885 the Chicago & Northwestern also decided to enter the South Platte country. The line from Fremont to Lincoln was located in the winter of 1885-86 and graded in the early spring of 1886, the track being completed to Lincoln that year.

In 1887 the Hastings line was built from Platte River Junction to Hastings and the Superior line from Linwood to Geneva.

In 1888 this road was completed to Superior. The Scribner branch was built from Scribner to Lindsay in 1886 and on to Oakdale in 1887.

In 1887 the Elkhorn line was connected with Omaha and South Omaha's stockyards by a line built from Arlington Station, in Washington County, east of Fremont, on the old Sioux City & Pacific line. The Creighton branch was extended to Verdigre in 1888.

THE CHICAGO, BURLINGTON & QUINCY RAILWAY

What is usually dubbed the "Burlington" or sometimes the "Q" line of railroad, in Nebraska, has a branch or division running from Ashland, near Lincoln, Nebraska, to Sioux City, Iowa, with principal stations in Dodge County, at Fremont, Nickerson, Winslow and Uehling. This runs about north and south through this county. It was built in 1905-06. Its passenger and freight depots at Fremont are thoroughly modern buildings and are appreciated by the citizens generally. While not as large, it is in many ways far superior to the new Union Pacific station in Fremont. In the passage of this road through Dodge County it crosses Platte, Nickerson, Hooper and Lyon townships.

This railway connects at Sioux City with the Great Northern system, sometimes styled the "Jim Hill System", which extends from St. Paul to the Pacific Coast.

EARLY HISTORY

The subjoined communication from a railway official in St. Paul to one of the officials at Lincoln, written in September, 1908, is self-explanatory:

"Replying to your letter of September 29, 1908, in reference to the dates of track-laying on the line from Sioux City to Ashland.

"Our track-laying on this line commenced at Dakota City September 19, 1905, reached Walthill November 1, 1905; track-laying gang was then moved to Ashland. The northern portion of this line was put into operation by the Great Northern Railway from Sioux City to Walthill Janu-

ary 2, 1906. Track-laying began at Ashland November 8, 1905, with C., B. & Q. train service, reached Oakland February 25, 1906; commercial business handled by construction trains until April 8, 1906, at which time the C. B. & Q. regular trains were placed on the south end of the line. The north and south ends of this line were connected through a big cut between Walthill and Rosalie June 13, 1906. C., B. & Q. trains were operating at this time and I presume this is all the information you need."

Truly,
(Signed) A. H. HOGELAND,
Chief Engineer.

RAILWAY MILEAGE IN DODGE COUNTY—1920

The present railway mileage in Dodge County is: By the Chicago & Northwestern system, 55 21/100; by the "Burlington" system, 26 72/100, and by the Union Pacific system, 25 21/100 miles.

CHAPTER VIII

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

NEBRASKA COMPARED WITH OTHER STATES—PRODUCTS OF THE RICH SOIL—FARM STATISTICS—A LARGE NUMBER OF TOTALS—COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—DODGE COUNTY FARM NAMES—OFFICERS OF DODGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU—DIRECTORS—FARM BUREAU'S AGENT—CHIEF CO-OPERATORS OF FARM BUREAU—THE RACE TRACK.

A writer concerning this state in 1888, wrote as follows, and as it refers to many products grown in Dodge and adjoining counties, it is here used as a preface to this chapter:

"This beautiful valley is a part of the great State of Nebraska which is 'first in corn, first in wheat, and first in the hearts of her citizens.' Between four and five hundred miles wide every morning in the corn growing season the farmers go out into a corn field larger than New Jersey. Every noon the harvest hands come in from a wheat field containing 150,000 acres more than the State of Delaware and every night Mary calls the cattle home from a pasture larger than the State of Pennsylvania. Once called the 'Great Western Desert' is now the garden of the world. The mustang is succeeded by the Norman. The buffalo has turned the fertile grass over to the Durham. Corn tassels where the Sioux danced his war-dance. The wheat crop grows over the old prairie dog villages. The same warm sun that crept over the sage brush and the Indian wigwams, smiles on the orchard and meadow."

The altitude in Eastern Nebraska is highly adapted to the maturing of crops of wheat, corn, vegetables and grasses. Corn and stock have for many years been important factors of farm life in Dodge County. In 1888 the agricultural reports show that about 6,000,000 bushels of corn were produced in the county, and more than one-half of this vast amount was fed to Dodge County cattle and hogs, before they were marketed.

The drainage of the flat, wet lands of the county have been largely drained and tiled out until now but small tracts of land only remain without such profitable improvements. (See other mention of the county's drainage.)

FARM STATISTICS

In 1918 the state agricultural reports gave figures on Dodge County as follows:

Number of farms occupied by owners, 837; farms occupied by tenants, 778.

Number of acres in farms in county, 238,410; acres under cultivation, 231,627; acres uncultivated, 106,783.

Farm mortgages filed, 206; amount mortgaged, \$1,560,000.

Number of horses in county, 10,667; mules, 1,193.

Number dairy cattle, 6,071; number of all cattle, 25,796.

Number of hogs, 29,820.

Number sheep and goats, 1,512.

Number dozens poultry, 12,665; incubators, 251; stands of bees, 71. Number of dogs, 1,918.

Number automobiles on farms, 1,374; gas tractors, 133; gas engines, 922; silos, 150; cream separators, 1,079; butter-making machines, 91.

Number of acres of corn, 98,239; average yield, 33 bushels; total number bushels, 3,241,887; valued (at \$1.25 per bushel), \$4,052,000.

Number acres winter wheat, 31,961; average per acre, 14 bushels; valued at \$2.00, equaled \$895,000.

Number acres spring wheat, 20,277; average yield per acre, 8 bushels.

Total value of all wheat crop, \$1,211,229.

Number acres of oats, 48,000; average per acre, 37 bushels; valued at 63 cents.

Number acres of rye, 905; averaged 15 bushels to the acre, brought \$1.20 per bushel.



HOGS

Number acres of barley, 1,298; average per acre, 30 bushels.

Number acres of millet, 369; average per acre, 2 4/10 tons; value per ton, \$15.40.

Number acres in sorghum, 625; average tonnage per acre, 4. Value \$10.00.

Number acres of navy beans, 2. Of onions, 11 acres.

Number acres potatoes, 942; average yield, 48 bushels.

Number acres of alfalfa, 8,053; average per acre, 3 2/5 tons. Valued at \$20.00 per ton; total value, \$515,000.

Number acres wild hay, 28,886; yield 1 6/10 tons; value, \$16.00.

Number acres of clover, 3,129; acres timothy, 561; timothy-clover mixed, 10,815; other tame hay, 6,437.

Number bearing apple trees, 9,791; cherry trees, 2,467.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

There appears to be no record of an agricultural society in Dodge County prior to 1870, when there was formed what was styled the "Union Fair Grounds Association." It was organized at Fremont, but as was once said concerning it, "It takes in the whole world."

In 1872 a joint stock company was organized and known as the Dodge County Agricultural Society. This was formed at Centerville, section 32, township 19, range 7. The first officers of this organization were as follows: J. P. Eaton, president; J. B. Robinson, treasurer; W. C. Aikin, secretary. The first annual exhibit was made at Centerville in 1872. This continued until 1879, when after considerable pulling and hauling between various parts of the county, the location was changed to Fremont by a vote of the stockholders as follows: Fremont, 95; Centerville, 72, and Hooper, 3. At the same date this society was consolidated with the Union Association at Fremont, which made a new strong society. After these changes had been made the first officers elected were: James G. Cayton, president; H. P. Nicodemus and J. Y. Smith, vice presidents; F. I. Ellick, secretary.

Originally, the fair grounds here comprised eighty acres, but that was cut down to forty acres prior to 1890. The grounds are about one mile northwest of the central part of the city. From time to time good buildings were placed on these beautiful fair grounds, but in July, 1890, a severe windstorm destroyed many of these valuable improvements, but by the next year nearly all had been replaced.

In looking over old minute books of the society it is found that in 1892 the officers were: J. B. Robinson, president; William E. Lee, vice president; M. H. Hinman, treasurer, and J. W. Hyatt, secretary. At that date the society only owed about \$1,000. But year by year misfortune and change of public opinion lessened the general interest, one element being a difference of opinion as to conducting races in conjunction with agricultural fairs. Finally about 1900 the society went down, like many another in various states. Now there are numerous district and town stock exhibits, such as the successful ones of Hooper and Scribner, where the interest is usually well centered. A Trotting Park Association was formed at Fremont instead of a county fair and that holds its annual races to the entire satisfaction of the horsemen of this and adjoining counties.

DODGE COUNTY FARM NAMES

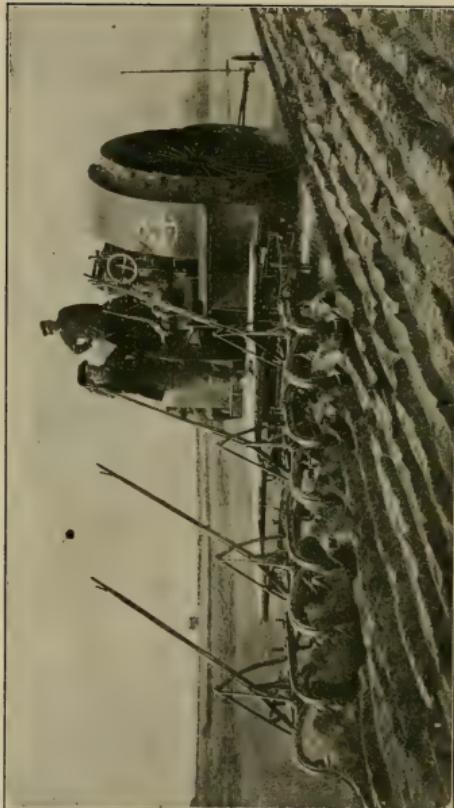
Since 1910-11 there has been a provision in the Nebraska laws that each county clerk in the state shall be provided with a record book in which shall be recorded the name selected by the owner for his farm, and with it shall be a description as to location, section, township and range. No two persons can claim the same farm name. The fee in Dodge County for recording "farm names" is \$1.00. While not many have so far taken advantage of this law, yet since 1910 there have been recorded the names of thirty-nine farms. The recorded description of these is as follows:

No. 1 of these "farm names" was recorded July, 1911, by William J. Coad, for his farm in section 7, township 17, range 9, the same being called "Maple Grove Farm."

"Sunny Slope" farm was recorded by M. A. Uehling, September 30, 1911, the location being a quarter of sections 8 and 17, in township 19, range 8.

"Island View Home," May 12, 1913, by George W. Ainsworth, in Westside Addition.

"The Elms," May 29, 1913, by Ray Nye in Nye & Hawthorne's Addition to Fremont.



TRACTOR PLOW

"Pine Hurst," in part of the south half of the southeast quarter of section 13, township 17, range 8, by Mrs. J. W. Van Anda. The date was June 14, 1913.

"Maple View," July 3, 1913, by Philip S. Rine, in the southwest quarter of section 2, township 18, range 8.

"Logan Lodge," September 13, 1913, by May Lyman, in Hooper Township, section 10, township 19, range 8.

"Utopia," November 5, 1913, by J. J. Hawthorne, in ^{the} Platte Township, in sections 21 and 22, township 17, range 8.

"Elmhurst," by Jesse W. Hibben, Platte Township, section 24, township 17, range 8, on November 17, 1913.

"Spruce Hedge Farm," by Christ Muller, in section 35, township 18, range 8, on November 20, 1913.

"Clover Leaf Farm," by John Petrow, in section 8, township 17, range 8, November 25, 1913.

Fred De La Matye, in section 20, township 17, range 8, the "Highlands."

"Westfield Acres," by Frank Fowler, in section 15, township 17, range 8, November 25, 1913.

"Thoroughbred Holstein and Poultry Farm," by J. Watts Kaven, in section 36, township 19, range 9, on December 1, 1913.

"Idlewild Farm" is in section 20, township 18, range 9, and was recorded December 9, 1913.

"Morning Side," by Wallace M. Smith, in section 24, township 7, range 8, December 13, 1913.

"Edgewood Farm," in section 28, township 19, range 6, in Ridgeley Township, by George Nolan, December 22, 1913.

"Valley Grove Farm," in section 11, township 17, range 6, by Fred D. Howe, December 29, 1913.

"Lake View Farm," in section 2, township 19, range 7, by Herman Monnich, July 5, 1914.

"Oak Hill Farm," by Herman Monnich, in section 2, township 19, range 7, July 5, 1914.

"The Londonderry Farm," in section 13, township 19, range 5, by John J. Fey.

"River View Farm," by Charles W. Mulloy, in section 14, township 17, range 7, on February 28, 1914.

"Evergreen Home," by David Brown, in section 9, township 18, range 7, on April 9, 1914.

"Pfaffe Valley Farm," by Frank J. Kromas, in section 2, township 17, range 5, September 18, 1914.

"Square Deal Farm," by Monnich & Sons, in section 19, township 7, November 3, 1914.

"Lone Cedar," by Alfred C. Rexin, in section 17, township 18, range 6, on March 11, 1915.

"Wildwood," in section 28, township 17, range 8, by George F. Wolz and Frank Pfeiffer, April 11, 1916.

"Creek View," by Swan Anderson, in section 3, township 17, range 8, on July 15, 1916.

"Grand View Park," by George F. Wolz, in section 28, township 17, range 8, August 21, 1916.

"Plain View Farm," by Joe Baechler, in section 24, township 19, range 6, recorded November 25, 1916.

"Wildwood Farms," by Fred Eason, Cotterell Township, in section 9, township 17, range 6, recorded September 5, 1917.

"Wittdale," by Anna Witt, Ridgeley Township, in section 2, township 19, range 6, recorded November 21, 1917.

"The Grove Stock Farm," by H. M. Kern, in section 26, township 18, range 5, recorded March 20, 1917.

"South View Stock Farm," by Henry S. Spath, in Ridgeley Township, sections 9 and 16, in township 19, range 6, recorded May 31, 1919.

"Logan View Farm," by Emil H. Suhr, Logan Township, in section 9, township 20, range 8.

"Hillside Farm," by Willie Olson, in Pleasant Valley Township, in section 16, township 19, range 5, recorded October 11, 1919.

"Poland China Farm," by Harry C. Dahl of Maple Township, in section 19, township 18, range 7, recorded March 29, 1920.

"Valley View Farm," by H. C. McGath, section 20, township 18, range 7, recorded June 17, 1920.

"Lakeside Farm," by Ray A. Hindmarsh, in section 19, township 19, range 10, recorded June 23, 1920.

OFFICERS OF DODGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 1920

Frank E. Liston, president, Hooper; William Havekost, vice president, Hooper; William M. Milliken, secretary, Nickerson.

DIRECTORS OF FARM BUREAU

C. F. Luecking, Scribner; Louis Musbach, Scribner; Emeal Sievers, Scribner; Albert Gerecke, Fremont; Chris Schow, Fremont.

COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S AGENT

R. N. Houser, Fremont, office in courthouse.

CHIEF CO-OPERATORS OF THE FARM BUREAU

H. J. Wolf, Ames; John Ehninger, Hooper; J. G. Hunteman, Hooper; Henry Tank, Fremont; William Rittig, Scribner; W. O. Haseman, Fremont; R. H. C. O'Brien, Ames; Robert Seymour, North Bend; Frank Diers, Nickerson; F. M. Sumner, North Bend; John Wallace, North Bend; E. R. Hughes, North Bend; Ernest Schmidt, Fremont; Emeal Sievers, Scribner; Hans Paasch, Scribner; J. N. Emanuel, North Bend; George Hilbers, Hooper; W. H. Farrell, North Bend; H. F. Muller, Scribner; C. J. Lenneman, Scribner; Charles Auten, North Bend; George Jorgensen, Ames; August Klemke, Scribner; O. O. Larson, Hooper; Elkhard Janecek, Dodge; E. F. Novak, Dodge.

CHAPTER IX

HISTORY OF THE DODGE COUNTY BAR

(BY FRANK DOLEZAL.)

This narrative of the lawyers of Dodge County is wholly from personal acquaintance with the men. From the start the bar of Dodge County occupied a high place in the profession, and during the active period of its leading members, practiced in nearly all of the counties of the state north of the Platte River and in the tier of counties south of the Platte River lying along the river. The judicial district in which Dodge County is situated in the early days included a great many counties, and Saunders, Butler and York remained in the district for quite a period of time. So these leading lawyers had a wide field for their operations in the formative period of the state, and by their abilities and characters exerted a strong influence on the law history of the state.

Another such period of forty years cannot come, neither can men of the peculiar character of these leaders of the bar come. They were men whose sentiments and convictions were formed by the ideas and ideals which prevailed among the intelligent classes of American citizens before the Civil war. They were earnest men, and attained their education by sacrifices and they held to those ideals through the great period of commercialism's struggle for control of law which started with the Civil war and exerted a fatal influence on the American bar. The spirit of commercialism which has changed all business and industry and subverted the real and legitimate influence of legal profession began at about the time that they started in the practice of the profession. These lawyers had the professional ideals that professional skill with integrity and honor should be the measure of professional success, and they viewed with natural misgivings the organization of wealth into corporations and the vast powers conferred upon these organizations. They stood for the criterion of merit and service as against measuring things by the commercial outcome of money profit. As a result of this struggle and of the influence exercised by the leading members of the bar of Dodge County during their time, no lawyer here became rich from law practice or even what was then considered well off. They were genuine American individualists.

THE LAWYERS OF 1881

When I came to Dodge County, January 1, 1881, the Dodge County bar then consisted of the following practicing lawyers engaged in the active work of the profession: E. F. Grey, W. H. Munger, N. H. Bell, W. A. Marlowe, W. C. Ghost, James A. Sterrett, William Marshall, George L. Loomis, C. Hollenbeck, and J. E. Frick, all located at Fremont, and D. M. Strong located at North Bend. The late Samuel Maxwell was then one of the judges of the Supreme Court. In the latter part of 1881 Mr. Sterrett died, and Mr. Marlowe and Mr. Ghost, along in 1882, moved to Denver, Colorado. At about the same time Z. Shed, a former member of the bar, also moved to Denver, Colorado. Sterrett

and Marshall had come to the county from Illinois some years before 1881. Mr. Loomis had then been in Fremont a few years, and Mr. Hollenbeck had been in Fremont two years, while Mr. Frick came to Fremont in 1880. For a great many years the bar consisted of Grey, Munger, Bell, Marshall, Loomis, Hollenbeck, Frick and myself at Fremont, and D. M. Strong at North Bend. From 1881 on, Grey, Munger and Bell were the leaders in the bar, and their practice extended over many counties of the state. In the first fifteen years following my coming, changes had taken place, so that Loomis, Hollenbeck and Frick gained leading positions in the bar. A short biography of these men will illustrate the character of the bar.

A few words explaining the history of the bar may not be amiss.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR BEFORE 1881

Robert Kittle, one of the pioneers concerned in laying out the Town of Fremont, was a lawyer by profession although he did not take any position in the practice of his profession in Dodge County. He owned much of the town property and was more concerned in that than in the practice of law.

Z. Shed was the outstanding lawyer of the early period. He had built up a good practice and was a versatile man, who might be described as a graduate of the university of the world. He left the practice of law to engage in commercial enterprise. He built the Opera House and conducted a large mercantile establishment until he sold out in Fremont about 1883 and moved to Denver. He made a success of law practice and his reasons for leaving it go back to the struggle which I have mentioned in the introductory part. He told me that he noticed the trend of affairs and for that reason determined to quite the law.

E. H. Rogers and George W. E. Dorsey were members of the Dodge County bar in the early days, but devoted their energies to real estate, loans and politics. Mr. Rogers was appointed Consul at Vera Cruz and died there. Mr. Dorsey became a member of Congress and was a public spirited man, and died later at Salt Lake City. Neither of these men practiced law since my coming.

J. W. Perkins, who was a member of the bar in the first years, moved into Knox County, and as I understand it, Mr. Loomis took his place in the practice.

THE LEADING MEMBERS OF THE BAR

Samuel Maxwell had a long career as Judge of the Supreme Court and after leaving the bench, did not actively engage in law practice. He was afterwards elected to Congress. He was a great worker and quite a prolific writer on law matters. He wrote works on legal procedure, both civil and criminal, aside from the writing of opinions of the Supreme Court of which he wrote a great many. Whatever may be said in a critical way of his opinions from the professional standpoint, he always had before his eyes that the object and aim of law is to do justice between the parties, and it will be admitted that he held to that ideal. He was a broad man and man of wide views. His defeat for renomination to the bench was one of the incidents of the struggle, and his nomination and election to Congress was an incident of the same struggle. The struggle against the encroachments of commercialism. He died shortly after finishing his service in Congress and at an advanced age.



NEW COURTHOUSE, FREMONT

E. F. Grey, while not born in Nebraska, was really a native Nebraskan, and came from the southern part of the state to Dodge County. He had previously been at Lewiston, Idaho, and had written the criminal code of that territory. When Judge Crounse became Judge of the district, the position of District Attorney came to Mr. Grey, and he came back from Idaho and moved up to Fremont, where he remained in the active practice of law until his death. There never was a lawyer who worked harder and more faithfully for a client than Mr. Grey. His was the spirit of the true warrior. He was a man of patience and perseverance and method. He was a man of the highest professional honor, whose word was as good as a bond. He did not only stick to an oral agreement he had made even though that agreement turned out unfavorably, but in addition he would not try any of the side stepping, and fairly took the agreement as made and intended. He was an uncomplaining man and aside from his professional work, was a kindly man, and an interesting companion. He was a man of bravery, moral as well as of physical development. And I shall never forget the last interview with him. I had heard of his intending to give up practice and I went to his office to tender him a banquet of the bar as he was the oldest practitioner. On asking him whether it was true that he was going to quit practice he said to me, "Yes, I am going to leave today. I am going to my daughter's to die," and pointing out certain books in his library, he said to me, "I have given these to my son-in-law at Plattsmouth, and these," pointing to others, "go to my son-in-law at Sioux Falls." His declaration was in even tones. It was not the bragging or defying of a man, but the statement of a fact as a fact. He did not seem cast down, he told me that he had finished his law work. I then made the statement to him that when he got up to his daughter's and rested up from work that we would then expect him to come down for a visit, and in the same even tones he told me that when he came back it would be his dead body. Within a month of the time he laid down his professional work he was buried in the cemetery at Fremont. Mr. Grey occupied no official position after his office of District Attorney in the early days until towards the close of his professional career when he acted as City Attorney for one term.

W. H. Munger came to the county in the early days, being guided to Fremont by that nestor of early days, C. A. Baldwin, of Omaha. I heard Mr. Munger say that he studied law in Cleveland, Ohio. When I came to Dodge County he had a very extensive and select practice which he held until his appointment as judge. He was then in his prime. The old timers are nearly all gone, but those left here and those who knew Mr. Munger will admit that it never occurred to any man to question Mr. Munger's fairness or honesty, or any statement that he made. He was professionally and personally the cleanest of men, and the last of men to be influenced in any way by consideration of profit. He was quiet in his tastes and genial and when engaged in investigating a legal question or proposition his mind worked with great rapidity. His intellectual cast was that of analysis, and he had a sensible grasp of men and things. I do not think that ambition to get on in a worldly way ever disturbed him. He was appointed Federal Judge for the District of Nebraska in the nineties, when those two great lawyers of the State of Nebraska, Honorable W. V. Allen and Honorable John M. Thurston represented the State of Nebraska in the United States Senate. I know that Mr. Munger worked much harder as a judge than as a practitioner. I know that his appointment and confirmation were welcome to all,

irrespective of party. He was the one man that the great powers of a federal bench did not turn arbitrary or tyranical. His record is that of an ideal judge.

N. H. Bell was the most interesting member of the Dodge County bar and the most picturesque personality in it. He labored under difficulties that the public was not aware of. Mr. Bell was a genius. He was the master of plausibility in argument. His reasoning was nearly all by analogy, and he had that greatest of wit that never wounded the feelings of others. Many incidents could be recorded of his wit. He was my opponent in the last jury trial that he tried, the question being as to whether a certain mechanical device worked or not. My client was on the stand and this mechanical device, being the first of the kind in the county, of course restricted our side simply to the technical mechanical proof. Mr. Bell knew the weakness of it, and touched up my client with the exclamation "You never saw it work" following it up with "How do you know it will work?" About the third time that he touched it up, my client got warmed up and stated that he knew it would work because it was made to work. Judge Bell in an instant jumped up, threw out his arms and in his inimitable way said, "So was I, but I don't." The result was a roar over the court room that the presiding judge good-naturedly joined in. To this day among the lawyers are reported many instances of his wit, and his power of mimicry. He was an imaginative man, a great reader and given to amusing conceits. Mr. Bell in the early days served a term as the County Judge of Dodge County, which is the only official position that I know of his having held. In his life he had the usual inaptitude of the professional man to accomplish anything except professional labor. He died about eighteen years ago and is buried at Newton, Iowa.

William Marshall was the only one of the bar who was a Civil war veteran. He had held the position of Lieutenant-Colonel in the war and had acted for many years as state's attorney. He acted as state's attorney in the old district here until he got the position of district judge which he held until his death along in 1900. Judge Marshall was a painstaking, plodding worker, working slowly, had great respect for precedents and the wisdom of the past. He was an earnest, honest man, whose integrity I never heard questioned. He gave to the office of judge that attention that no man could have done better. It was nothing unusual for him to be up past the midnight hour working upon instructions or hunting through the books on questions of law. His mind had a mathematical cast to it, and I often thought that he was too prone and insistent in establishing a proposition to demonstrate it as one would a problem in mathematics. As a lawyer he was probably the best posted in criminal law that was ever known in the Dodge County bar. Judge Marshall never married and he followed his profession with a singleness of purpose and attention. He felt and knew that he was made for the law, and the other things of life did not allure him, except his hunting and fishing diversions. He had the most elaborate hunting and fishing equipment of any member of the bar.

George L. Loomis is the present collector of internal revenue, and virtually retired from the active practice. In his time Mr. Loomis held the position of county attorney and representative before his present position. Mr. Loomis devoted his time more to the commercial branch of the law than any of the other lawyers of the bar, and he gave his business that careful attention that could not fail of success.

He is methodical in his work and painstaking and worked more in detail than any of the other members of the bar. Mr. Loomis also gave much attention to the Odd Fellows Lodge and has held the highest positions in it. I would not mention him because he is living yet and still a member of the bar, only for the fact that he is the last here of the bar who were here when I came in 1881.

C. Hollenbeck came to Nebraska in 1878 from Pennsylvania, and I have to revise my statement as to Judge Marshall being the only veteran of the Civil war, for Judge Hollenbeck enlisted at the age of sixteen and passed through the Civil war. He was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, and represented his county in the Legislature of that state before coming here. He held the office of county attorney for two terms and then judge of the District Court until he was elected six years ago Chief Justice of Nebraska, and died in that office shortly after taking his place on that bench. Judge Hollenbeck was an interesting personality and during his practice was my closest chum at the bar. He was a man who was well educated and possessed great mental powers. He was not a ready speaker but his mental cast was that of judgment, and he excelled in his judgment of men as well as things. He was not a great or extensive reader in the law, but he worked hard in analyzing the proposition and getting it distinct and clear. He was a broad man and had studied the Constitution of the United States and of the State and had decided views as to the purposes of constitutional law. His individual peculiarities as a man and lawyer are well known and remembered. His standing and ability as a district judge are exceptional. He possessed the faculty of locating the ruling point in a law suit.

J. E. Frick, since 1881 until leaving Nebraska in 1897, was my partner in practice. He had taken up the law after being in business and after having learned and practiced a trade. He was a man of broad and very general information and a great reader. Mr. Frick had natural oratorical abilities in voice and appearance to a marked degree, and was the orator of the bar during his residence here. In Utah he gained the Supreme bench and is now a member of the Supreme Court and a candidate for re-election. Mr. Frick took naturally to the law and the comments among the lawyers reading his opinions as Supreme Judge leave no room to doubt that the people of Utah in his case have made no mistake.

D. M. Strong was an old resident of this county, and served as sheriff, from which office he graduated into the law. He was established at North Bend when I came and remained there until his death. He was the second member of the bar who never married. He was killed by an accident on a train at the station of Valley. His work was mostly that of counsel, but he had a legal mind and his analysis of a case for a self-taught man as he was, was remarkably good.

About 1883, Robert J. Stinson came to North Bend. He was a young man then, who had gained his education by great sacrifice, and he started in partnership with a man named Harry Clair, which was unfortunate for him owing to the fact that Clair had imposed on him and on the people here and was in fact a criminal and extradited from the state afterwards. Mr. Stinson, about the year 1885, removed to Fremont, and entered the partnership of Judge Frick and myself and afterwards was in partnership with Grant G. Martin. Following this he was elected County Judge of Dodge County, and held that position until his death some eight years ago. Mr. Stinson came originally from New York, and

for years preceding his death was suffering from the disease which finally terminated fatally.

Grant G. Martin came to the county from one of the Dakotas about twenty years ago and remained a member of the bar until he took the position of deputy attorney general since which time he has lived in Lincoln. Mr. Martin held the position of county attorney for two terms, and following his position of deputy attorney general, became attorney general of the state, and has served as commissioner of the Supreme Court and is at present a candidate for Chief Justice.

During my time, Frank Fowler of Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company, and B. H. Dunham, now of Omaha, and Master in Chancery of the Federal Court, became members of the Dodge County bar, both studying in the office of Mr. Munger. Mr. Fowler was in the office of Mr. Munger during the partnership between Mr. Marlowe and Mr. Munger in the early days, and after his admission to the bar took up a commercial career. Mr. Dunham moved to Omaha and served long years in the law offices of the Northwestern Road.

Waldo Wintersteen, the present County Judge, also became a member of the bar by studying law in a law office. He had been County Judge some years before his present term of service.

A. H. Briggs, an old resident of Dodge County, was a member of the Dodge County bar for many years. His family settled in the county in a very early day, and Mr. Briggs gained his education and at times had engaged in farming and in mercantile pursuits. He opened an office in Scribner, and finally moved to Fremont. He was elected County Judge of Dodge County and served in that office for two terms, and afterwards retired from law practice to a farm in the neighborhood of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where he now lives.

Henry Maxwell, son of Judge Samuel Maxwell, studied law and was for considerable time with Fred W. Vaughn, a member of the bar now, and afterwards removed to the City of Omaha, where he is still in practice.

A. Clark Records was admitted to the bar from study in the law office of Judge Hollenbeck but did not stay with the practice of the law.

Frederic W. Button, the present judge of the District Court, entered the practice of law in Dodge County with Judge Hollenbeck shortly before Judge Hollenbeck was elected to the district bench.

The foregoing, with members of the bar that are here now, constitute all the men which occur to my mind as having been connected with the practice of law in Dodge County since my coming here.

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

It may not be amiss to refer to the men who have served as judges of the District Court. When I came in 1881, the late George W. Post, of York, Nebraska, was the judge. He was succeeded when a change was made in the district, by his brother, A. M. Post, of Columbus, who has the interesting record that after having quit the District bench thirty years he has again returned to it, and is now one of the judges of the District Court. William Marshall was made judge when the district was given two judges. J. J. Sullivan, formerly of Columbus, until his elevation to the Supreme Bench, served as District Judge. I. L. Albert, now of Columbus, Nebraska, served for a short time by appointment when Judge Hollenbeck was elected to the bench. Afterwards for one term J. A. Grimson, of Schuyler, was one of the judges,

and he was followed by George H. Thomas, formerly of Schuyler, Nebraska, and now of Columbus, Nebraska.

I have not mentioned any of the present members of the bar of Dodge County, who are engaged in active practice, as it would not be deemed by me proper, nor do I take it, would it be acceptable to make comments upon the active members, for they have not yet passed into history and what might be said would be subject to misunderstanding and misconception.

The writer takes pardonable pride in having spent his professional life as a member of the Dodge County bar because of the membership of the bar and the kindly associations, and he takes great pride in the fact that the judges who have served upon the District Court of Dodge County and as county judges during his time have performed the functions of those high offices in a manner highly commendable in the administration of justice.

CHAPTER X

MEDICAL MEN OF THE COUNTY

FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT DOCTORS OF DODGE COUNTY—LIST OF PHYSICIANS—SHORT PERSONALS OF SOME OF THE COUNTY'S MEDICAL MEN—LIST OF PRESENT PHYSICIANS—THE DODGE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—HOSPITALS, ETC.

Ever since the dawn of civilization the "art of healing" as the work of a physician has long been called, has been foremost in the minds of intelligent men and women—especially is this true when the body is prostrate with some one of the numerous fevers—when the world looks dark and gloomy, and pain is constantly reminding the patient of a serious illness. It is then, if not at other times, that men and women desire the care of a well-read and fully competent physician. They may, in full health, about the affairs of life, have spoken lightly of the family doctor and his medicine chest, of the theory of his particular school of medicine, but when languishing upon a bed of sickness, they take a different view of the physician and ask that he be sent for at once.

It should be remembered that the leading professions of the world have always been the doctor, the minister, the lawyer. These professions are of the higher and more dignified type of callings which men everywhere respect and at some time during the short span of years have need for. True, not every doctor since Galen, has been competent and even honorable and trustworthy, but the exceptions are few, for our physicians in modern times must needs be intelligent, trained, thinking men and women, who realize they hold the lives of the community in their hands. Great advancement has been made in the science of medicine in the last half century. In surgery and dentistry the improvement in twenty-five years has been a marvel to all who stop and think of old treatments. Dodge County is old enough to have lived under "old fashioned" and newer doctors, and both classes have averaged with others in their times.

DODGE COUNTY PHYSICIANS

As near as can now be ascertained the following comprises about all of the Dodge County physicians who have practiced for any considerable period of time, since the earliest settlement, in the fifties:

Abbott, Luther J.	Borglum, M. D.
Agee, James C.	Buchanan, Albert E.
Anderson, Louis N.	Burbank, F. L.
Atkinson, Ira E. J.	Braucht, F. E.
	Brown, Nathan H.
Barnes, Charles E.	Brown, Frank W.
Bates, H. Y.	Brunner, Henry
Bear, Alexander	Byers, George A.
Bell, Mrs. Nelly	Byers, Samuel J. N.
	Byers, R. C.

Calkins, F. E.	Metzinger, J. J.
Capek, Ernest	More, Z. N.
Colburn, C. L.	Morrow, H. N.
Crabbs, J. H.	Mullens, A. B.
Croll, Nercer B.	
Crook, Charles V.	
Davies, William J.	Nayel, Dr.
Davies, Rupert A.	Nieman, Gustav
De Myers, Henry	
Devries, J. S.	
Earhart, Dr.	Overgaard, Andrew P.
Eby, C. D.	Oxford, Edwin J.
Eigler, Charles O.	Oxford, Charles
Fees, Arthur W.	
Geragosian, Vahn James	Parchen, H. W.
Golding, D. G.	Pederson, H. C.
Guidinger, W. A.	Porter, Dr.
Hardy, J. M.	Preston, S. A.
Harvey, Andrew	
Haslam, George J.	Rathbun, G. H.
Hunter, Major H.	Reeder, Grant S.
Inches, Charles	Richardson, Ira F.
Kinyoun, F. H.	Robinson, Charles O.
Kirby, Lupper	
Knallenburg, W. H.	Schemel, Karl
Leake, E. N.	Schoettler, Dr.
Martin, E. W.	Seiver, Mrs. Charlotte
McDonald, Robert C.	Sexton, T. C.
McKnight, H. P.	Sexton, Thomas C.
	Smith, Leander, B.
	Stratton, M. D.
	Townsend, Louis J.
	Turay, Charles E.
	Unlan, M. D.
	Van Buren, E.
	Van Metre, Richard T.
	Zellers, M. T.

PAST AND PRESENT PHYSICIANS OF DODGE COUNTY

It is always a difficult task to write the history of the medical profession in any given locality, for the simple reason that the physician is usually too busy about the cares of his office and outside practice, to take sufficient time to record data that might in years to come be of invaluable service to the local historian, in treating on such a topic. Outside of short sketches, of now and then a prominent medical doctor, found in "Who's Who?" or similar publications, there is but little compiled concerning physicians until death and then their obituary notices are seldom long preserved, save by their own families. In this connection let it be stated that the writers and compilers of the History of Dodge and Washington Counties, have used every known effort, called upon well posted members of the profession, etc., for data relative to the men who have lived and practiced medicine in these counties, yet have been unable to secure much to make an interesting medical chapter.

However, that the names of such physicians as are recalled, with such notes as have been furnished the writer, the following incomplete list of the physicians and surgeons who have practiced here from an early day to 1920—some for a short time and others for a longer period—will be here given:

Doubtless the first physicians who treated the ill who lived in Dodge County, as now bounded, was a physician living at the Quincy Colony in Fontanelle, which is in Washington County now but then within Dodge. The files of the Fremont "Tribune" give in their issue of July 24, 1868, the names of Drs. L. J. Abbott, J. H. Crabbs and Dr. Bear, practicing in Fremont then. It is believed there were but few ahead of them in this county. In a list furnished the writer by Dr. George J. Haslam, of Fremont, he gives it as his belief that the first physician in the city of Fremont was Doctor Stratton. Dr. Alexander Bear was about the same time, and later located at Norfolk, Nebraska. Other very early doctors in the county were: Doctors Schoettler, Earhart, Borglum, who moved to Omaha, Henry Brunner, who graduated at Wurzburg, Germany, practiced there and at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and in Iowa, after which he located in the practice at Fremont in the '50s. Dr. E. Van Buren moved to Hooper, practiced till death in July, 1881. Doctor Nayel, Doctor Porter, Doctor Unlan, Doctor Inches, a graduate of New York University Medical College, and is now practicing in Scribner.

Dr. J. H. Crabbs was among the first in Fremont and has been dead many years, as has also Dr. L. J. Abbott, above named; he was appointed as superintendent of the State Insane Asylum at Lincoln and made an excellent man at the head of that great institution. Doctor Abbott was a rugged, strong, many-sided character and held numerous public positions; he was a member of the last Territorial Legislature and had to do with the formation of the State of Nebraska. He was the son of a doctor and was born in Blue Hills, Maine, September 15, 1831. He graduated from Ohio Medical College, spent two years in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, from which school he received his diploma March 12, 1854. He commenced his medical practice with his father, at Troy, Ohio, continuing six years. In the autumn of 1860 he came to Douglas County, Nebraska, bought a claim in what is now Irvington. He developed his claim and practiced medicine at the same time. His chief business, however, was raising sheep, he being among the first in the Territory of Nebraska to engage in such an enterprise. He continued until 1866 when he sold and moved to Fontenelle, where he practiced two years, then located in Fremont. He was a pioneer doctor and had many professional drives more than fifty miles in length, up and down the Platte and Elkhorn valleys. He helped organize the first State Medical Society in 1868, and was its president in 1877. He was United States examining surgeon for pensions from 1871 to 1881; was interested in educational affairs, member Fremont School Board; delivered able addresses at the corner-stone laying of the second courthouse of this county; wrote an authentic "Centennial History" in 1876 of Dodge County, and was author of many able articles for the press.

Dr. George J. Haslam, still a leading practitioner in the City of Fremont, graduated from the University of Ireland, Dublin; member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England; B. S. Victoria University, England; F. R. C. S. and a member of the American College of Surgeons; has practiced in Fremont since 1891; with Dr. L. J. Abbott founded the first hospital of Fremont. (See biographical sketch.) Doctor Haslam is a member of the American Medical Association; surgeon to the

Chicago & Northwestern Railway, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway and the Union Pacific Railway at Fremont; is Medical director of the North American Life Insurance Company, Omaha; Lieutenant U. S. Army Medical Reserve; is a thirty-second degree Mason.

Doctor Inches is a graduate of New York University College, and is now practicing at Scribner.

Dr. Leander B. Smith is a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa; came to Fremont to practice in 1879; retired in 1913; is now the oldest continuous medical doctor in Dodge County; never lost three weeks time for vacations.

Dr. William J. Davies; graduate of Rush Medical College, 1887; conducted a drug store in Fremont twenty-five years; commenced the practice of medicine in 1887.

Dr. J. S. Devries, a graduate of the University of Nebraska; came to Fremont in 1888; in 1897 moved to Fontenelle and in 1903 back to Fremont; took post-graduate course at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; in 1918 took a post-graduate course in New York.

Dr. M. T. Zellers, of Hooper, is among the pioneer physicians of this county, having settled in Hooper about 1890, and is still in practice there. He is a graduate of Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio. (See biography.)

Dr. Ira E. J. Atkinson practiced in this county for a time, moved first to Dodge Village and later to Lincoln.

Dr. E. W. Martin graduated at Cincinnati Medical College, 1881; first practiced five years in Kentucky; came to Fremont in 1886; belongs to the various medical societies and associations; still in practice in Fremont.

Dr. C. L. Colburn practiced here in the nineties, later moved to California and is now deceased.

Dr. N. H. Brown, deceased.

Dr. T. C. Sexton, graduate Washington University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. H. W. Parchen, graduate of Northwestern Medical College, St. Joseph; practiced here at one time and is now practicing at Hoskins, Nebraska.

Dr. Nercer B. Croll left this county for Omaha, practiced there, but is now deceased.

Dr. E. N. Leake, graduate of New York Homeopathic Medical College; also of Flower Hospital, New York. (See biography in this work.)

Dr. Nellie Bell, graduate of Kansas City Homeopathic Medical College in 1895.

Dr. Charles Oxford moved from this county to Omaha, where he died.

Dr. Charles O. Eigler moved from this county to Denver, Colorado.

Dr. J. J. Metzinger, graduate of University of Iowa; Iowa College of Homeopathy, Iowa City, 1899; came to Fremont in 1900; member of the various medical societies; has been president of the county society.

Dr. Andrew P. Overgaard, University of Nebraska; College of Medicine, Omaha; practiced for a time here and later removed to Omaha.

Dr. Frank W. Brown after a short practice here moved to Omaha.

Dr. F. E. Calkins, graduate of State University of Iowa; College of Homeopathy, Iowa City, 1899; practiced at Hill City, South Dakota, to 1902, then came to Fremont.

Dr. Ira F. Richardson, graduate of Southwest School of Medicine and Hospital, Kansas City.

Dr. Arthur W. Fees removed from this county to Blair and later entered practice at Omaha.

Dr. Lupper Kirby moved from this county to Fort Kearney.

Dr. Ernest Capek, formerly of Dodge County, is now practicing in Schuyler.

Dr. D. G. Golding, graduate Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, now resides in California.

Dr. S. A. Preston, University of Nebraska; College of Medicine, Omaha; came to Fremont in 1908; belongs to various medical societies; was railway surgeon at Howells, Nebraska, six years; also contract surgeon for the United States Steel Company, in Michigan.

Dr. L. J. Townsend, a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, practiced here for a time but is now at Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. Richard T. Van Metre, graduate of State University, Iowa; practiced at Dow City, Iowa, till 1911, then moved to Fremont; entered U. S. service July, 1918, served until January, 1919; belongs to the various medical societies.

Dr. Grove H. Rathbun, born December 31, 1881, at Bedford, Iowa, died at Fremont, Nebraska, September 5, 1919. He was a graduate of Omaha Medical College; practiced in South Dakota at various places; had charge of hospitals at Leed and other points; located at Belle Fouche, South Dakota, seven years, came to Fremont in 1912; was a skilled surgeon, widely known as such. Bought a large residence on Nye Avenue, fitted up the same and there operated extensively, also operated much at the city hospital. He was married and had three children. He died in the prime of his manhood. (See biography.)

Dr. Albert E. Buchanan, Fremont, was born in Smyth County, Virginia, August 21, 1872; entered Emory and Henry College of Virginia, an institution of historic note. He there received the degree of B. A. He then matriculated in the Virginia Medical College at Richmond, Virginia; graduated in 1900; practiced three years at locations in his home state, and in May, 1903, came to Nebraska, resided and practiced medicine in Cedar Bluffs, Saunders County, Nebraska, until 1910, then located in Fremont. (See biography.)

Dr. Charles E. Barnes, University of Illinois; College of Medicine, Chicago, practiced for a time here and now practices in Omaha.

Dr. Charlotte Seiver, graduate of John A. Creighton College, Omaha, 1915; located in Fremont, July, 1915; secretary of the Dodge County Medical Society, still in practice in Fremont.

Dr. Andrew Harvey, University of Nebraska, College of Medicine, Omaha, 1913; came to Fremont in 1915; served on the draft board in Dodge County, during the late World war; belongs to all the ordinary medical societies and associations.

Dr. James C. Agee, University of Nebraska, College of Medicine, Omaha, 1903; practiced at Valley thirteen years; served in the Spanish-American war one year; came to Fremont in 1915; enlisted in World war, but was rejected; has been city physician for two years last past.

Dr. H. N. Morrow, Fremont, graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago; located in Fremont in 1905; is a member of the County and State Medical societies; is a Free Mason and Odd Fellow and has been city physician one year.

Dr. H. C. Pederson, University of Nebraska, 1905; practiced in Donnebury, Nebraska, fourteen years; enlisted April, 1917, in World war service; discharged January 1, 1919, when he came to Fremont and

entered practice. He was abroad twenty-two months and served in various camps in this country.

Dr. Grant S. Reeder, Fremont, was born March 25, 1885, at Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa; graduate Tipton High School, 1903; Cornell College, 1907; Rush Medical College, 1911; was an interne at St. Joseph's Hospital, Chicago; practiced medicine at Kirkland, Illinois, 1911 to 1915; post-graduate work New York, fall of 1915, special work in diseases of children. He came to Fremont, February, 1916. Entered Army July 15, 1918, called to active duty August 15, 1918, to U. S. General Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, where he received special course in diagnosis of heart and lung diseases. Was assigned to duty at Camp Funston, Kansas, September 14, 1918, as special chest examiner on duty from September 14, 1918, to June 30, 1919, then sent to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, as special chest examiner—discharged July 9, 1919; returned to Fremont, Nebraska, August 1, 1919, and has been engaged in medical practice ever since.

PRACTICING PHYSICIANS IN 1920

The following is supposed to be a correct list of the physicians and surgeons in active practice in Dodge County, in the summer of 1920:

CITY OF FREMONT

George J. Haslam, James Agee, A. E. Buchanan, F. E. Braucht, F. E. Calkins, W. J. Davies, J. S. Devries, E. N. Leake, Andrew Harvey, E. W. Martin, H. N. Morrow, J. J. Metzinger, S. A. Preston, Grant S. Reeder, Ira F. Richardson, Charlotte Seivers, L. B. Smith, R. S. Van Metre, Charles A. Bone, Myrtle A. Bone, Donald A. Atkinson, J. T. Young. (Fred H. Berhenke, Mason & Mason, chiropractors.)

NORTH BEND PHYSICIANS

R. E. Huff, Paul R. Hamond, W. E. Doane, S. W. Yates, Dewia Hegwer.

UEHLING PHYSICIAN

Dr. H. P. McKnight.

SCRIBNER PHYSICIANS

Drs. G. Bartlett, E. L. Hustead.

DODGE PHYSICIANS

Drs. Guidinger, F. B. Patterson.

SNYDER PHYSICIANS

Dr. George Byers and Dr. Kinyoun.

WINSLOW PHYSICIANS

None located as yet.

HOOPER PHYSICIANS

Drs. M. T. Zellers, J. Howard Heine, Clinton D. Heine, B. B. Hauser.

NICKERSON PHYSICIAN

Dr. R. C. Byers.

DODGE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Dodge County Medical Society was held in Fremont, Nebraska, October 31, 1901, when the following officers were elected: President, L. B. Smith; first vice president, R. C. McDonald; second vice president, Doctor Doane; secretary, Doctor Overgaard; treasurer, W. J. Davies.

At this meeting a constitution was adopted as well as by-laws.

This society was organized for the purpose of building the medical profession together as a unit; to meet at least once each year and to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the medical profession and more especially to seek by educational methods to acquaint the public in general with those methods of sanitation which would make for a healthier community and assist in the one aim of the medical profession—the alleviation of suffering and the prolongation of human existence.

The society was organized by the medical profession for the people. Its meetings are ever open to the public and any questions which may arise having to do with the betterment of health or sanitation are freely considered and executed, so far as is within the power of the society.

The present (1920) officers of the society are: President, H. B. Hauser, Hooper; vice president, James Agee, Fremont; secretary and treasurer, Grant S. Reeder, Fremont.

The 1920 membership of thirty-five is as follows:

1. James Agee, Fremont.
2. G. A. Byers, Snyder.
3. A. E. Buchanan, Fremont.
4. F. E. Braucht, Fremont.
5. R. C. Byers, Nickerson.
6. F. E. Calkins, Fremont.
7. R. A. Davies, Arlington.
8. W. J. Davies, Fremont.
9. J. S. Devries, Fremont.
10. C. D. Eby, Leigh (Colfax Co.)
11. R. E. Huff, North Bend.
12. Paul R. Hamond, North Bend.
13. George J. Haslam, Fremont.
14. W. Howard Heine, Hooper.
15. B. B. Hauser, Hooper.
16. Charles Inches, Scribner.
17. F. H. Kinyoun, Snyder.
18. E. N. Leake, Fremont.
19. Andrew Harvey, Fremont.
20. E. W. Martin, Fremont.
21. H. N. Morrow, Fremont.
22. J. J. Metzinger, Fremont.
23. H. De Myers, Howells.
24. W. A. Guidinger, Dodge.
25. D. G. Golding, Fresno, Calif.
26. S. A. Preston, Fremont.
27. Grant S. Reeder, Fremont.
28. Ira F. Richardson, Fremont.
29. Charlotte Seivers, Fremont.
30. L. B. Smith, Fremont.
31. R. S. Van Metre, Fremont.
32. M. T. Zellers, Hooper.
33. H. C. Pederson, Fremont.
34. H. P. McKnight, Uehling.
35. C. N. Moore, Schuyler.

HOSPITALS

Too much praise cannot be given the founders of the various hospitals Fremont has had since its existence. In 1891, in a small frame building

on the site of the present three story brick building, the late Dr. L. J. Abbott opened an institution for the better care of the ill and for properly performing surgical operations. At first Dr. George Haslam, M. D., still a leading physician and surgeon of the city of Fremont, was a partner with Doctor Abbott in his hospital work, at the corner of Fourth and Broad streets. This hospital was able to care for fifteen patients. Trained and professional nurses were employed, both Drs. Abbott and Haslam bestowing their best efforts in their work of conducting the first real hospital in Fremont. Doctor Abbott withdrew from the concern in 1892.

In 1897 the present hospital was built, and in this permanent building are rooms neatly furnished by the Fremont Furniture Company and by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The citizens have ever taken



FREMONT HOSPITAL

much pride in this institution. Any physician of the city may take his patients there and treat them. Formerly the capacity was twenty-eight rooms, but when the building was rebuilt it provided for more patients. This hospital was made possible by the combined efforts of numerous business men of Fremont who have always shouldered such responsibilities. About a dozen persons are constantly employed in this hospital. Nurses are also trained here for practical work. Home capital was wisely invested in this institution which has come to be appreciated over a wide scope of country. Of the management of this institution it may be said that at first it was managed by Doctor Haslam; next for a period of one year its superintendent was Miss Fox; the next two years was in charge of Miss Eoline Clark; the fourth superintendent was Mrs. Honora Kelly, who had charge for nine years, and she was succeeded by the present owner of the property—Mrs. Marie L. White, who took possession in 1918.

CHAPTER XI

BANKING IN DODGE COUNTY

(By T. L. MATHEWS)

UTILITY OF BANKING—THE FIRST BANK OF THE COUNTY—SUBSEQUENT INSTITUTIONS—PRESENT BANKS OF DODGE COUNTY—SUMMARY OF BANKS IN 1920—BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATIONS—TRUST COMPANIES.

A bank is as indispensable in every business community as any other branch of business.

Banks are useful as places of security to deposit money. They are necessary and important to persons who wish to borrow—to the farmer who buys a farm, or to tide him over from time to time; to the business man who needs additional funds in his operations.

The bank acts in this double capacity. It gathers the surplus money of a community; offers its capital as a guarantee of its safe return; loans a part of this money to the active members of the community, stimulating activity in all lines of commerce. To the extent that the bank holds in its custody the funds of the community, to that extent it is of value and a benefit in that community.

A bank account is a safe way to keep your money.

Payment by check is convenient, saves time, guards against errors, furnishes a good record of your transactions, is useful when a payment is disputed.

A bank account of an individual is a valuable record of his income and expenditure.

A bank account is an educator of the depositor, acquaints him with the value of keeping a record, gives him a better idea of business affairs.

A bank account is a great help in saving money. It becomes the one ambition of the man who has a sum of money, large or small, to his credit in the bank, to strive to increase that sum.

The richest men in the country never carry money in their pockets, but put it in the bank. The bank accords careful consideration to the small as well as the large depositor.

There are National Banks, State Banks, Savings Banks and Private Banks in this country, but all are under control of the government—National or State.

BANKS IN DODGE COUNTY

The history of banking in Dodge County reaches back to the pioneer days and has been highly honorable and is unblemished by a single bank failure.

In the history of Dodge County's banking, the record does not show that any bank official was a defaulter or the subject of criminal proceedings. Considering the active part the banks have taken in the development of a new country and in backing infant industries, the record made is one that challenges attention and is worthy of commendation.

Because of their high standing and financial strength and the convenient reach, the Fremont banks have from an early day carried large balances for the country banks in Dodge and adjoining counties, and this has made Fremont an important center for money.

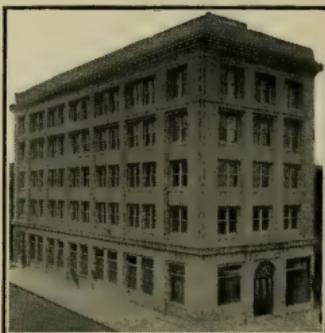
THE PIONEER BANK

The present First National Bank is the successor to the first attempt at banking in Dodge County, and the story is best told by the subjoined extract from the "Life of E. H. Rogers," written by his daughter, Mrs. L. S. Moe, and assisted by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rogers, copied from the original manuscript which reads thus:

In the summer of 1866, the prophetic expectations which led to the founding of the little Platte Valley town ten years before, were fulfilled by the building of the Union Pacific Railroad through the county.



FIRST BUILDING
FIRST NATIONAL BANK, FREMONT



PRESENT BUILDING
FIRST NATIONAL BANK, FREMONT

The impetus given to its growth and prosperity by the magic touch of the great continental electric belt, seemed to justify a new business venture more metropolitan than any to which the prairie hamlet had yet aspired. In connection with a real estate office which they had established a short time before, E. H. and L. H. Rogers opened a private bank which has developed into the present First National Bank of Fremont. Very humble quarters housed the infant institution. George F. Blanchard, a young man whom my father held in high esteem, used as a hardware store a long, low, dingy building standing upon the corner now occupied by the bank and in its back room the financial experiment was first essayed. Later when it gave some promise of success, a small one-story building with the ubiquitous square front western towns had, somewhat modified, was erected for its accommodation on the opposite side of Broad Street. Here it flourished, being for some years the only institution of the kind in the town or county.

A third partner was admitted to the real estate business and that branch entrusted altogether to his care, becoming a few years subsequently his individual property. This gentleman was G. W. E. Dorsey, since member of Congress, then a young West Virginian, recently dis-

charged upon the closing of the Civil war from the United States service and seeking his fortune in the West. In 1872, the bank was re-organized, becoming the First National Bank with my father as cashier, and shortly recrossed the street to its present quarters upon the original site.

Then it may be stated that this the county's first banking house pre-ceded the present First National Bank which was organized March 16, 1872, the former banking house was established as a private bank by E. H. and L. H. Rogers who organized in 1867, doing business under the name of "The Banking House of E. H. and L. H. Rogers" until the organization of the national bank.

The first capital was \$50,000. The first officers were: President, Theron Nye; vice president, H. J. Lee; cashier, E. H. Rogers; assistant cashier, L. H. Rogers. The stockholders were: Messrs. J. G. Smith, J. T. Smith, S. B. Colson, E. H. Barnard, Pat Hanlon, J. J. Hawthorne, Wilson Reynolds, James Balding, Samuel O'Brien.

The present capital (July 1, 1920) is \$150,000; present surplus, \$25,000; recent deposits, \$1,245,479.65. The resources and liabilities, \$1,752,248.64.

In 1914 the present steel and concrete bank building was constructed and its present value is \$300,000.

The present (1920) officers are as follows: S. S. Sidner, president; Henry Teigler, vice president; A. G. Christensen, vice president; H. Beckman; J. H. Williams, cashier; Leah Williams, assistant cashier.

The directors are: H. J. Lee, E. R. Gurney, A. G. Christensen, H. Beckman, F. B. Knapp, Fred Bader, Frank Koss, Charles G. Marshall, S. S. Sidner, P. A. Nelson, Dan V. Stephens, Henry Teigler, E. N. Morse, A. G. Taylor and J. H. Hoebner.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

This bank is another banking concern of the City of Fremont. It was first incorporated as the Merchants Bank, September 30, 1882, by George W. E. Dorsey, Ernest Schurman, Fred Mayer, Morris Sloman, John Hauser, Wilson Reynolds, C. H. Toncray, Otto Huette, William E. Smails and George A. Dodge.

The first officers were: George W. E. Dorsey, president; Ernest Schurman, vice president; C. H. Toncray, cashier; W. E. Smails, accountant; C. F. Dodge, assistant bookkeeper.

On May 8, 1884, a meeting was held and it was decided to re-organize the bank into a national bank and the name chosen was the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. The first board of directors were: George W. E. Dorsey, E. Schurman, S. A. Sloman, George A. Dodge, Wilson Reynolds, J. W. Love, Otto Huette, J. O. Milligan, J. Hauser, H. Sorenson.

The first officers after the re-organization were: George W. E. Dorsey, president; Ernest Schurman, vice president; C. H. Toncray, cashier; W. E. Smails, assistant cashier; Charles F. Dodge, and August J. Albers, bookkeepers.

January 1, 1889, C. H. Toncray was elected vice president; W. E. Smails, cashier; C. F. Dodge, assistant cashier, and Victor Seitz, bookkeeper.

May 13, 1890, Mr. Seitz was elected assistant cashier. March 8, 1892, on account of ill health, Mr. Dodge resigned as assistant cashier. Mr. Dorsey resigned as president May 5, 1893, and Otto Huette was elected to succeed him and Francis I. Ellick was elected vice presi-

dent. Robert Bridge was elected vice president January 12, 1898, and on January 10, 1899, was elected president and Arthur Gibson was elected vice president. In January, 1903, P. S. Rine was elected vice president and January 10, 1911, he was elected president and continues in that capacity to this time.

C. F. Dodge was elected vice president and continued as such until January 14, 1914, when Mr. Smails was elected vice president and cashier, continuing until his death March 4, 1918. January, 1918, J. Howard Heine was elected cashier and in April was elected vice president and cashier.

In June, 1920, Thomas H. Fowler, for many years cashier of the First National Bank of North Bend, Nebraska, was elected cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Fremont.

The present directors are: P. S. Rine, C. H. Brugh, George F. Wolz, R. W. McGinnis, J. Howard Heine, H. J. Hauser and Victor Seitz.

January 1, 1920, this bank paid dividend No. 70 and since organization the bank has paid its stockholders \$278,831.92 in dividends. In June, 1920, this bank had a capital of \$100,000; surplus, \$60,000; deposits, \$571,483.85. Total resources, \$885,548.97.

THE FREMONT NATIONAL BANK

This banking concern is located in the City of Fremont at 152 East Sixth Street. It was organized in 1883 and was the successor to the private bank of Hopkins & Millard. Its first capital was \$75,000.00; the first officers were: A. P. Hopkins, president; L. M. Keene, vice president; Junius Rogers, cashier. Its present (1920) capital is \$150,000.00; surplus, \$150,000.00; deposits, \$650,000.00; resources and liabilities, \$1,752,000.00. In 1871 a bank building was erected of brick at a cost of \$20,000.00.

The bank's present officers are: Charles F. Dodge, president; Joseph T. May, vice president; Henry Wehner, vice president; Irving McKennan, cashier; A. F. Christensen, assistant cashier. Directors: C. E. Abbott, C. H. Brunner, C. H. Christensen, Frank Hanlon, Charles F. Dodge, L. P. Larson, L. M. Keene, H. Wehner, J. Rex Henry and J. T. May.

The stockholders of the Fremont National Bank own the stock of the Security Savings Bank, capital, \$18,000.00; surplus, \$20,000.00; deposits, \$185,000.00. The capital and surplus of the Fremont National Bank is \$300,000.00, being the largest capital and surplus of any bank in the county.

History: The history of the beginning of the Fremont National Bank seems to be about as follows: "I think the bank was first started as a private bank, Wilson & Hopkins, in 1869-70, at about the location where the millinery store now is, just west of Johnson's Auto Company on Sixth Street, possibly a little west of that. Mr. Hopkins was then unmarried and lived in the rear part of the building with his mother.

"I think the building now occupied by the Fremont National Bank was built by Wilson & Hopkins in 1871 (possibly 1870), John Ray, architect. Hopkins married about that time and lived on the second floor. The Wilson was W. R. Wilson and the Hopkins was the silent partner of the grain firm of W. R. Wilson & Co.

"About 1879-80, Wilson & Hopkins dissolved and the bank was run by A. P. Hopkins for a year or so and then Hopkins & Millard (Alfred Millard, son of Ezra Millard, who was then president of the bank).

"In 1883, A. P. Hopkins, assisted by Junius Rogers, organized the Fremont National Bank and A. P. Hopkins was president, L. M. Keene, vice president, Junius Rogers, cashier, John Grunkranz, assistant cashier."

SECURITY SAVINGS BANK

This bank is connected with the Fremont National Bank, in the City of Fremont. It was organized in 1890 with a capital of \$12,000.00. Its first officers were: L. D. Richards, president; J. W. Goff, vice president; W. H. Fowler, secretary and treasurer. Its present capital is \$18,000.00; surplus, \$20,000.00; deposits, \$185,000.00. Its resources and liabilities are \$220,000.00. The bank is conducted in the Fremont National Bank Building.

The present officers are as follows: Charles F. Dodge, president; J. T. May, vice president; Pearl E. Albertson, cashier and secretary. The directors are: C. H. Christensen, J. Rex Henry, Charles F. Dodge, C. E. Abbott, L. M. Keene, L. P. Larson and J. T. May.

The combined deposits of this bank and the Fremont National Bank are \$803,316.07.

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK—FREMONT

This institution was established in January, 1891, and is located on the corner of Fourth and Main streets, in the city of Fremont. It was the successor to the German-American Bank established in 1889 by E. Schurman and Manley Rogers. The first capital was \$100,000.

The original officers were: E. Schurman, president; C. Christensen, vice president; F. McGiverin, cashier; S. J. Dunn, assistant cashier; others connected with the founding of this bank were: J. H. Koehu-
back, George L. Loomis, William Ruwe, Henry Archer, Charles H. May.

The present-day officers and directors include these: Otto H. Schurman, president; George C. Gage, cashier; J. A. Van Anda, assistant cashier; C. Christensen, vice president; O. F. Turner, vice president; Otto H. Schurman, O. F. Turner, C. Christensen, G. R. Loomis, John Miller, D. J. Springer, G. C. Gage, W. R. Adams, William Sager.

The present capital is \$100,000; surplus \$100,000; recent deposits \$1,153,387.83. Resources and liabilities, \$1,845,542.76.

In 1890 a beautiful red sandstone bank building was erected at a cost of \$25,000. This institution has long been looked upon as one of the safe, sound and progressive banking houses of this section of Nebraska.

It is a member of the Federal Reserve Banking system. Its "Statement" June 30, 1920, showed: Resources and liabilities, \$1,695,484.20; loans and discounts, \$1,324,931.43; United States bonds, \$107,000; Liberty bonds, \$104,400; interest earned but not collected, \$20,000. Capital stock, \$100,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$148,276.37. The amount in deposits was then \$1,153,387.83.

HOME SAVINGS BANK—FREMONT

This institution connected with the Commercial National Bank at Fremont was organized May 12, 1892. Its original capital was \$12,000, but now is \$18,000, with a surplus of \$18,000. Its recent deposits were \$282,695.82; resources and liabilities, \$323,301.98.

Its first officers were: Ernest Schurman, president; Charles H. May, vice president; F. McGiverin, cashier. Directors, C. Christensen, George L. Loomis, D. J. Springer and William Ruwe.

The present (1920) officers are as follows: Otto H. Schurman, president; George L. Loomis, vice president; O. F. Turner, vice president; George C. Gage, cashier. Directors: Otto H. Schurman, George L. Loomis, O. F. Turner, D. J. Springer, John Miller, C. Christensen.

Statement November 15, 1919: Capital stock, \$18,000; surplus, \$18,000; deposits, \$262,897.47; total assets, \$308,430.29.

FREMONT STATE BANK

The Fremont State Bank, located in the City of Fremont, Nebraska, was organized in June, 1904, and was successor to the Fremont Trust and Savings Bank. Its first capital was \$15,000; present capital, \$50,000; present surplus, \$11,000; present (recent) deposits, \$440,000; resources and liabilities, \$508,000.

This institution's first officers were: R. B. Schneider, president; E. R. Gurney, vice president; Paul Colson, cashier; D. D. Rowe, assistant cashier. This bank is located at the corner of Sixth Street and Park Avenue.

The present (1920) officers are: T. L. Mathews, president; L. E. May, vice president; D. D. Rowe, cashier; J. M. Sorensen, assistant cashier. The present board of directors is as follows: H. J. Lee, J. H. Hoebner, L. E. May, Dan V. Stephens, J. A. Yager, A. J. Eddy, J. A. Murrell, W. J. Courtright, D. D. Rowe, T. L. Mathews, E. J. Lee.

This bank is under state supervision and its deposits protected by the Depositors Guarantee Fund of the State of Nebraska.

In June, 1920, T. L. Mathews resigned as president of this bank and Dan V. Stephens was elected his successor.

THE SCRIBNER STATE BANK

The Scribner State Bank was organized December 24, 1883, on a \$10,000 capital. Its first officers and founders were as follows: J. L. Baker, president; John Barker, cashier. Stockholders, J. B. Robinson, J. M. Diels, Gus A. Diels, H. Fuhrman, A. P. Hopkins.

The 1920 capital is \$40,000, with a surplus of \$30,000. Its recent deposits amounted to \$800,000. Resources and liabilities, \$900,000.

In 1894 a handsome brick bank building was erected at an expense of \$6,000.

The present (1920) officers and directors of this banking house are as follows: Fred Volpp, president; Henry Sievers, vice president; P. L. Keller, cashier; Peter L. Bauer and W. E. Fahnestock, assistant cashiers; Kate Gordon bookkeeper. Directors, Fred Volpp, E. R. Gurney, P. L. Keller, Henry Sievers, George Foster, C. W. Marquardt and Peter Preiss.

During all the years of this bank's history it has stood for good business principles and has been able to satisfy the demands of the excellent agricultural community surrounding the Village of Scribner.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK—SCRIBNER

This bank was organized July 3, 1903, on a \$25,000 capital. The first officers and founders were: F. McGiverin, president; Claus Ehlers,

vice president; J. L. Reinard, cashier. The directors are, Louis Groetke, John Haun, Henry Spath, Henry Schnack, C. T. Horton.

The present capital is \$25,000; surplus, \$30,000; resources and liabilities, \$596,000; recent deposits, \$442,000.

A brick building was erected for this banking house in 1903 at a cost of \$4,500.

The 1920 officers are as follows: Claus Ehlers, president; A. E. Romberg, vice president; Charles Arnot, cashier; Gesina Schurman, assistant cashier; W. J. Ehlers, assistant cashier; Fred H. Meyer, teller; the directors are, Claus Ehlers, A. E. Romberg, H. N. Spath, Louis Groetke, John Haun, Adolph Grosch, Charles Arnot.

This bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System. Its management has always been of the modern and most excellent business character, and the community in which it is located has been highly favored by its presence.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

This institution is one of the enterprising banks of the Town of Scribner, Dodge County. It was organized July 17, 1917, on a capital of \$35,000. Its present capital is the same, but a surplus is now carried to the amount of \$35,000. Its recent deposits were \$305,000; resources and liabilities, \$390,000.

The founders of this bank were: Arthur H. Shultz, president; Henry Edelmaier, vice president; Herman F. Meyer, cashier.

The officers of the present day (1920) are as follows: Arthur N. Shultz, president; Henry Edelmaier, vice president; Herman F. Meyer, cashier; Edwin Schwein, assistant cashier. Directors, William Mohr, Christ Stuahmer, B. Havekost, Herman Stalling, Julius Kruse.

This bank has a building constructed of brick and Bedford stone and it is owned by the corporation.

With competent men in charge and an excellent farming community to draw from this bank, with others at Scribner, are highly successful in their operations as bankers.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF NICKERSON

This bank was established at the little Village of Nickerson in April, 1919, on a capital of \$15,000, same as it has today. Its present surplus is \$1,000; recent deposits, \$100,000; resources and liabilities, \$125,000. The bank is kept in a rented building.

The original officers connected with this bank were as follows: Otto Schurman, president; Ed Clough, vice president. Directors, Otto Schurman, Ed Clough, F. J. Diers, H. W. Moeller and Ed F. Langhorst.

The officers, etc., today are as follows: Otto Schurman, president; Ed Clough, vice president; V. M. Huffman, cashier; Frank J. Diers, H. W. Moeller and Ed F. Langhorst.

THE FIRST BANK OF NICKERSON

This bank was established in 1902 with a capital of \$5,000, by W. J. Courtwright, as president of the corporation, and H. J. Sidner, cashier. The 1920 capital is \$25,000, with a \$6,000 surplus. Its recent deposits amounted to \$250,000; its resources and liabilities are \$295,000. In 1916

a good brick bank building was constructed for this institution; the same is valued at \$8,000 and its fixtures and furniture at \$4,000.

The 1920 officers are as follows: E. R. Gurney, president; A. W. Sprick, vice president; C. E. Negus, cashier; W. A. Anderson, assistant cashier; Frank Bullock, bookkeeper. The directors are: A. W. Sprick, E. R. Gurney, W. A. Anderson, C. E. Negus, Anna C. Brown, John Sidner and John Niebaum.

The banking interests of the small Village of Nickerson and its immediate surroundings are well cared for by this bank.

THE WINSLOW STATE BANK

This bank was established at Winslow, Dodge County, in December, 1905, and its incorporators were: G. W. Wolcott, Fred Wolf, John F. Haye, F. Hagerbaumer, Julius Beckman.

Officers elected August 11, 1906: H. P. Weitkamp, president; G. W. Wolcott, vice president; William Kaufman, cashier, elected in September, 1906. The bank received its charter January 4, 1907. It was chartered for a capital of \$50,000, but only \$10,000 was paid up at first. Its present capital is \$20,000; surplus, \$10,000; deposits, \$213,000. The bank's total resources is \$247,000.

In 1906 a concrete bank building was constructed at a cost of \$3,800. In December, 1916, this bank suffered a hold-up by bandits, an account of which will appear elsewhere in this work.

The present officers are: L. Bartling, president; F. H. Hagerbaumer, vice president; George Voll, cashier; John F. Haye, August Luther, M. C. Luther, Fred Wolf, and other directors.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK—WINSLOW

This bank was organized June 30, 1919, in the Village of Winslow, Dodge County, Nebraska, with a capital of \$20,000. Its first officers and founders were: H. P. Weitkamp, president; Louis Bartling, first vice president; Fred C. Panning, second vice president; Roy W. Brown, cashier.

The present (1920) officers are: H. P. Weitkamp, president; Louis Bartling, first vice president; Fred C. Panning, second vice president; Roy W. Brown, cashier. Directors, H. P. Weitkamp, Louis Bartling, Fred G. Panning, Roy W. Brown, H. H. Lueninghoener and Edward M. Warner.

The present capital is \$20,000; recent deposits, \$20,494.34. The resources and liabilities are \$39,540.28. Loans and discounts in November, 1919, amounted to \$25,196.87. Undivided profits at that date were \$2,075.82.

SNYDER STATE BANK

This bank was organized in 1892 by Conrad Schneider, John Bolte, Ernest Schurman, Herman Holsten, Joseph Winkamp, Conrad Nolte, Ferd Billerbeck, Karl Schwichler, John Hardes, Fred Molle, George Dietz, W. A. A. Hamann and Ferdinand Kounowsky. The amount of capital was \$30,000. The first directors were as follows: E. Schurman, Herman Holsten, Conrad Schneider, John Bolte, Herman Wolsleger, Joseph Winkamp and John Looschen.

Conrad Schneider was elected president; Herman Holsten, vice president; John Looschen, cashier.

August 15, 1893, Conrad Schneider, John Bolte, W. A. A. Hamann, E. Schurman, Herman Wolsleger, Jo Winkamp and John Looschen were elected directors. The officers then elected were Conrad Schneider, president; W. A. A. Hamann, vice president; John Looschen, cashier. They held office until August 6, 1904, when H. G. Meyer was appointed as assistant cashier, all other officers remaining the same.

At first only \$9,000 of the capital stock was paid in, but on August 10, 1906, it was increased to \$12,000 at the same time H. G. Meyer was elected cashier. All others remained as before except John Looschen, who resigned.

October 3, 1910, the capital stock was increased from \$12,000 to \$25,000; a new bank building was erected in 1910. In December, 1911, H. G. Meyer resigned as cashier and Robert Frahm was elected to the position. In March, 1919, Robert Frahm and Elliott Frahm purchased stock of Conrad Schneider, W. A. A. Hamann, John Bolte, Henry Schooner and others, making a controlling interest in the bank. Robert Frahm was elected president; Elliott Frahm was made cashier; Arthur Bleyhl, vice president. The 1920 board of directors is as follows: Robert Frahm, Elliott Frahm, Peter T. Lennemann, Arthur Bleyhl and Otto Schurman. The present capital is \$25,000; surplus \$10,000; loans and discounts, \$385,000; deposits, \$400,000.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK—SNYDER

This bank was established at the Village of Snyder in 1907. Its first capital was \$12,500. Its present (1920) capital is \$20,000; surplus, \$5,500; recent deposits, \$170,000; resources and liabilities, \$214,303.83.

The first officers of this institution were as follows: E. R. Gurney, H. Burger, J. J. Dickey, Herman Englebrecht and M. M. Wolslager.

The officers today are: J. J. Dickey, president; Claudi Wendorp, vice president; J. C. Dickey, cashier; Florence Dickey, assistant cashier; additional director is Herman Englebrecht.

A new modern building has just been completed to accommodate the increasing business.

Through the good management of the officers and stockholders the people have the utmost confidence in this banking house, for they believe the conservative manner practiced here makes it a safe, desirable place in which to deposit money and transact all banking business.

A recent statement shows as follows: Capital stock, \$20,000; surplus, \$5,500; undivided profits, \$22,400; loans, \$129,000.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK—DODGE

This bank was established in the Village of Dodge, in the north western corner of Dodge County, in March, 1889.

This institution in February, 1890, purchased the building and stock of the old Dodge State Bank. The first capital of the present institution was \$10,000; two years later it was increased to \$15,000 and February 8, 1894, to \$30,000.

The present capital is \$30,000; surplus \$30,000; recent deposits \$850,000.

The first officers and founders of this bank were: C. George Bowlus, J. O. Milligan, E. Schurmann, Herman Holsten, C. W. Marquardt, D. Holsten, H. J. Smith, Charles Woodruff, Anton Bartosh.

The present officers are: Herman Holsten, president; James H. Hook, vice president; Will R. Harbak, vice president; Richard H. Holsten, cashier; Josephine Dostal, bookkeeper.

The first building occupied by this bank was a frame structure and it was destroyed in the great fire of 1895 when the Town of Dodge was wiped out, only two buildings being left in the business section. The same year the present stone-brick bank building was constructed.

This bank has the facilities and willingness to meet the requirements of the territory in which it operates.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK—DODGE

This bank was organized as the Dodge State Bank in 1900 and in March, 1903, was succeeded by the First National Bank. Its capital was at first \$10,000. The first officers were: Ira E. Atkinson and A. J. Hasson. The present capital is \$50,000; surplus, \$25,000; recent deposits, \$650,000.

A bank building was erected from brick in 1903 and its cost was \$5,000.

The 1920 officers and directors are as follows: A. J. Miller, president; G. J. Borgmeyer, vice president; I. E. Atkinson, vice president; J. H. Miller, cashier; J. H. Longacre, William Rettig, J. H. Montgomery, directors; Clara Woerdeman, bookkeeper.

The December, 1919, statement shows resources and liabilities \$710,102.19. The present condition of the bank's finances is excellent. Loans and discounts, \$569,989.02; cash due and on hand, \$98,463. Comparative statements—Deposits, September, 1900, \$10,098; in 1919, \$621,160.

FARMERS STATE BANK—UEHLING

This bank was established in the Village of Uehling, July 26, 1905, with a capital of \$15,000. The founders and first officers were as follows: Herman Meyer, president; Theodore Uehling, vice president; Edward Uehling, cashier. Directors, T. Uehling, H. Meyer, H. Busselman, A. Linn, M. Stenvers, G. J. Bergquist and Edward Uehling.

The present (1920) capital is \$15,000; surplus, \$6,000; recent deposits, \$240,795; resources and liabilities, \$280,962.

The corporation built their bank building of brick in 1907 and its value is \$5,000.

The officers and others associated in this financial institution are: Herman Meyer, president; Maurits Stenvers, vice president; Edward Uehling, cashier, with P. A. Anderson, Henry Busselman, G. J. Bergquist and E. A. Larson, directors.

THE LOGAN VALLEY BANK—UEHLING

One of the two banks at the Village of Uehling is the Logan Valley Bank, organized on a \$10,000 capital February 26, 1906, by founders and first officers as follows: Charles Arnot, president; A. M. Tillman, vice president; J. D. G. Kuhlman, cashier; Charles Romberg, assistant cashier.

This bank has a capital of \$10,000; surplus of \$10,000; recent deposits, \$250,000; resources and liabilities, \$300,000. This bank occupies a frame building erected in the spring of 1906.

The present officers and directors are: Otto H. Schurman, president; A. M. Tillman, vice president; J. D. G. Kuhlman, cashier; other directors are: Carl Heyne, Arnold Romberg, John G. Osterloh, John Henry Witte.

The success of this institution has been largely due to the fact that all patrons have been treated fairly and politely by the management of the bank.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF AMES

This bank is situated at the Village of Ames, Dodge County, and was organized August 20, 1914, with capital of \$15,000. Its first officers were as follows: A. D. Graham, president; E. A. Gurney, vice president; Jerome Wostrel, cashier. Others among the founders of this bank were: N. J. Johnson, F. B. Knapp, Henry Tank, F. A. Davis and O. H. Sink.

This bank's present capital is \$15,000 with a surplus of \$2,000; its recent deposits were \$85,360; resources and liabilities are \$103,640. Liabilities not including capital and surplus, \$86,277.

The 1920 officers and directors are: E. R. Gurney, Ihno Harms, O. H. Sink, Robert C. C. O'Brien, Henry Tank, Louis Rebbe, S. S. Van Horn. The president is Ihno Harms; vice president, E. R. Gurney; cashier, Jerome Wostrel.

A few years since the bank went through a fire in which damage was done. This bank has never been robbed or held up by bandits as has been the case in some small towns. While this is a small bank it serves well the demand of the community about Ames.

In 1914 a good brick banking house was erected at an expense of \$4,500.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK—HOOPER

This financial institution was established in the Village of Hooper in 1885 as "Heimrich & Co." which in a few years was changed to the State Bank of Hooper and about 1900 was changed into the First National Bank. Its original capital was \$15,000; its present capital is \$25,000; surplus, \$45,000; present deposits amount to \$425,000; resources and liabilities, \$577,000.

A gray pressed brick bank building was erected in 1914 and it is valued at \$15,000.

It is indeed highly complementary to the management of this bank to note that it has earned a surplus of \$45,000.

As to the first and present officers it may be stated that originally the men at the head were: John F. Heimrich, president; Henry H. Looschen, vice president; E. J. F. Burgh, cashier; E. H. Airis and John Dern.

The present officers are as follows: A. M. Tillman, president; Peter Parkert, vice president; Norman E. Shaffer, cashier; C. H. Dahl, assistant cashier. Directors, A. M. Tillman, Peter Parkert, John G. Osterloh, Will Rodgers, Edward Luther, John Havekost, Norman E. Shaffer.

December 31, 1919, their "statement" gave among other items: Liabilities and resources, \$576,929.89; loans and discounts, \$406,090; stock

in Federal Reserve Bank, \$1,950; cash in vault, \$37,000; certificates of deposit (thirty day), \$32,000; individual deposits subject to check, \$164,455.49.

DODGE COUNTY BANK

The Dodge County Bank located at the Village of Hooper was organized in 1882 on a capital of \$15,000, but it was increased to \$20,000 January 1, 1889, and to \$25,000 April 30, 1900.

The first officers and founders of this bank were: T. W. Lyman, L. D. Richards and E. H. Airis. The present capital is \$25,000; surplus, \$40,000; recent amount in deposits, \$640,000; resources and liabilities, \$750,000.

The bank building is owned by the bank and valued at \$25,000.

The 1920 officers are: J. H. Windhausen, president; William Meyer, vice president; R. L. Schwab, cashier; Charlotte Monnich and Walter Otteman, bookkeepers. The assistant cashier is George Looschen. Directors, J. H. Windhausen, William Meyer, Casper Moeller, Casper Hoegemeyer, William Frock, W. G. J. Dau, George F. Otteman.

In its almost two score years of banking, this concern at Hooper has been very successful and stood high in the banking circles of Nebraska.

THE FIRST STATE BANK—NORTH BEND

This bank was organized April 19, 1882, and is located in the City of North Bend, Dodge County. Its first capital was \$25,000, same as today, but it now has a surplus of \$17,500. Its recent deposits were \$518,692; resources and liabilities, \$620,602.63. The founders of this bank were John T. Ritter, L. H. Rogers and C. L. Morse.

The 1920 officers are: Alex Thom, president; T. J. Kastle, vice president; W. F. Ruzicka, cashier; W. C. Stayskal, assistant cashier, and John Kelly, assistant cashier.

The bank building is owned by the bank, newly rebuilt and refurnished. It is a stone and brick structure and cost \$27,000.

A good guarantee fund is carried for the protection of depositors. This bank is a member of the Federal Reserve.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORTH BEND

This bank was organized at North Bend September 8, 1883, with a \$50,000 capital, same as carried today, but is now possessed of a surplus of \$20,000. Its recent deposits amounted to \$380,000; resources and liabilities, \$680,000.

The first bank building was destroyed by fire in 1892. The present fine structure erected at a cost of \$20,000 was constructed in 1917-18, of terra cotta and brick material, inside finish is mahogany and marble.

The original officers were Messrs. James Sloss, president; H. W. Neiman, vice president; George Hichok, cashier. Directors, James Sloss, C. Cusack, H. W. Neiman, M. E. Fuller, J. Y. Smith, Chauncy Abbott.

The present (1920) officers and directors are as follows: Roy J. Cusack, president; George Fisher, vice president; C. C. Sidner, cashier; H. C. Cusack, assistant cashier. Directors, Roy J. Cusack, George Fisher, C. M. Black, F. B. Datel, Thomas H. Fowler.

With the development of this county the two banks at North Bend, including this bank, have been of signal importance and advantage to the farmers and business factors of North Bend.

DODGE COUNTY BANK SUMMARY—1919-20

The following is a summary of the various banks in Dodge County, as shown by their statements, all of which were issued between December, 1919, and July, 1920:

Name of Bank	Estab.	Capital	Surplus	Recent Deposits
First National Bank, Fremont....1872	\$150,000	\$ 25,000	\$1,245,478	
Farmers and Merchants Nat'l....1882	100,000	60,000	571,483	
Fremont Nat'l Bank, Fremont....1883	150,000	150,000	650,000	
Security Savings Bank, Fremont....1890	18,000	20,000	185,000	
Commercial Nat'l Bank, Fremont....1891	100,000	100,000	1,153,387	
Home Savings Bank, Fremont....1892	18,000	18,000	262,897	
Fremont State Bank, Fremont....1904	50,000	11,000	440,000	
Scribner State Bank.....1883	40,000	30,000	800,000	
First Nat'l Bank, Scribner.....1903	25,000	30,000	442,000	
Farmers State Bank, Scribner....1917	35,000	35,000	305,000	
Farmers State Bank, Nickerson....1919	15,000	1,000	100,000	
First State Bank, Nickerson....1902	25,000	6,000	250,000	
Winslow State Bank, Winslow....1905	20,000	10,000	213,072	
Farmers State Bank, Winslow....1919	20,000	.....	20,494	
Snyder State Bank, Snyder....1892	25,000	10,000	400,000	
Farmers and Merchants, Snyder....1907	20,000	5,500	170,000	
Farmers State Bank, Dodge....1889	30,000	30,000	850,000	
First Nat'l Bank, Dodge.....1900	50,000	25,000	650,000	
Farmers State Bank, Uehling....1905	15,000	6,000	240,795	
Logan Valley Bank, Uehling....1906	10,000	10,000	250,000	
Farmers State Bank, Ames.....1914	15,000	2,000	85,360	
First Nat'l Bank, Hooper.....1885	25,000	45,000	425,000	
Dodge County Bank, Hooper....1882	25,000	40,000	640,000	
First State Bank, North Bend....1882	25,000	17,500	518,692	
First Nat'l Bank, North Bend....1883	50,000	20,000	380,000	
 Totals	 \$1,056,000	 \$707,000	 \$11,248,568	

OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF DODGE COUNTY

Besides the numerous banks of Dodge County, the commercial and financial interests have been cared for by the subjoined companies and associations:

THE EQUITABLE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

This institution was organized April 6, 1886, with officers as follows: President, Arthur Truesdell; vice-president, C. H. May; treasurer, C. B. Veazie; secretary, Earl A. Pettibone.

The present officers and directors are as follows: President, Frank Hammond; vice president, Frank Fowler; secretary, J. A. Donahue; assistant secretary, W. R. Rowe; treasurer, C. B. Veazie; counsel, George L. Loomis. Directors, Frank Hammond, Frank Fowler, J. A. Donahue,

C. B. Veazie, George L. Loomis, Arthur Truesdell, Fred Bader, Fred H. Richards, Frank Hanlon.

Loans to members, \$339,300.

Capital authorized, \$1,000,000, of which \$780,800 has been subscribed.

Dues, accrued earnings and reserve fund, \$278,793.61.

Number of loans made, 942.



FRANK HAMMOND, FREMONT

Many a home-owner in the City of Fremont has been benefited by being a member of this institution.

FIDELITY TRUST COMPANY

This financial institution was established August 15, 1911, in the First National Bank Building, corner Fifth and Main streets, Fremont. Its first capital was \$100,000, same as is carried today. The present surplus is \$15,000; resources and liabilities, \$556,401.07.

The original officers and founders of this institution were: R. B. Schneider, president; F. B. Knapp, vice president; James A. Donahue, secretary and treasurer; E. R. Gurney, chairman of executive committee.

At the present time this concern is in a flourishing condition. Its officers and directors are as follows:

President, F. B. Knapp; vice president, Frank Koss; secretary and treasurer, James A. Donahue; chairman finance committee, E. R. Gurney. Directors, E. R. Gurney, T. L. Mathews, Henry Tiegeler, Frank Koss, H. J. Lee, F. E. Gibson, F. B. Knapp, S. S. Sidner, A. G. Christensen, Fred Bader, Joseph Roberts.

NEBRASKA STATE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Among the most successful and flourishing institutions of its kind in the entire commonwealth is the association above headed. It was

established in January, 1892. It had for its original officers and directors the following persons: E. H. Barnard, president; H. C. Mahanna, vice president; J. T. May, treasurer; T. L. Mathews, secretary. The directors were: E. H. Barnard, H. C. Mahanna, L. D. Richards, J. T. May, R. B. Schneider, T. L. Mathews, E. N. Morse, C. M. Williams.

As to the various changes in officers of this association let it be stated that:

In 1901 T. L. Mathews was elected president and C. M. Williams secretary.

In 1902 Paul Colson was elected secretary and acted as such until 1911.

In 1911 D. D. Rowe was elected assistant secretary and acted as such until 1912, when he was elected secretary.

In 1920 Mr. Rowe was elected vice president and at the same time G. A. Olmstead was elected secretary.

This institution is a state association. It has had a very successful career and is now doing business in more than 150 Nebraska towns and cities and stands very high as a financial institution, one that has done much towards the promotion and high development of the state and has helped many thousands of people to own their own homes, and by its system of saving has helped many other thousands to acquire a competency or a tidy sum for a "rainy day." The published statement of this association shows the condition of its affairs December 30, 1919, to have resources at something over \$2,700,000.

Loans to members.....	\$ 2,627,933.09
Capital and surplus—authorized.....	10,000,000.00
Capital and surplus paid.....	2,800,000.00
Dues, accrued earnings and reserve fund.....	.....
Par value of stocks subscribed for.....	6,000,000.00
Number of loans made.....	5,800

Present officers: President, T. L. Mathews; vice president, D. D. Rowe; secretary, G. A. Olmstead; treasurer, J. T. May.

Present directors, T. L. Mathews, J. T. May, D. D. Rowe, W. J. Courtright, Dan V. Stevens, Paul Colson, C. H. Hawley, E. R. Gurney.

The association owns the double front building where the home office is located and have under way improvements to cost \$75,000.

In the twenty-eight years that this association has been doing business it has paid each year a substantial semi-annual dividend.

Mr. T. L. Mathews, president, and J. T. May, treasurer, have been actively connected with the association in an official capacity since its organization until this date.

HOOPER BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

This association was organized at the Village of Hooper in August, 1889, by officers as follows: David Reber, president; J. F. Briggs, vice president; George W. Heine, secretary; Ed Uehling, treasurer.

Its statement recently shows amount of loans to members, \$22,500.

Capital and surplus, \$23,000. Number of loans made, 142.

The 1920 officers and directors are as follows: A. M. Tillman, president; George W. Heine, secretary; Jacob Sanders, treasurer. Directors, W. E. Sanders, Jacob Kirsch, Joseph Stipsky, William F. Basler, B. Monnich, Ed Edelmann.

This is another of the examples of a well managed association in which a whole community is benefited by such associations.

FREMONT JOINT-STOCK LAND BANK

This institution was organized June 1, 1919, by Dan V. Stephens, under the banking act of July, 1916. Its object is to loan money on first farm mortgages and bond the mortgates under government supervision, the bonds being sold to the public.

This bank is in the Fremont State Bank Building, corner Sixth Street and Park Avenue, Fremont.

The original and present officers are: Dan V. Stephens, president; D. W. Killen, vice president, Schuyler, Nebraska; T. F. Kastle, treasurer, North Bend, Nebraska; William Meyer, secretary, Hooper, Nebraska.

The first capital was \$250,000—2,500 shares at \$100 each.

The present capital is \$275,000—2,750 shares at \$100 each.

Present surplus, \$15,000.

On June 1, 1920, the resources and liabilities were \$2,461,127.93.

CHAPTER XII

DODGE COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN DODGE AND ADJOINING COUNTIES—THE FREMONT WEEKLY AND DAILY TRIBUNE—THE OLD TRI-WEEKLY—GROWTH OF THE PIONEER PAPER PLANT—THE FREMONT WEEKLY HERALD—THE NORTH BEND EAGLE—THE HOOPER SENTINEL—THE UEHLING POST—THE SCRIBNER RUSTLER.

The local newspaper was early in this field and aided the pioneer settler in developing the country. The first settlers were composed of men and women who had come in from old settled sections of other States, where the "home paper" was a household treasure, hence upon immigrating here they naturally took great interest in supporting the first newspapers published in this and adjoining counties. The Fremont Herald and Tribune were the forerunners of the various newspapers which have since been published in this county, and they still continue as the leading newspapers.

THE COUNTY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Outside of Omaha the Fremont Tribune was the first newspaper established in the Platte Valley. In the summer of 1868, J. N. Hays came to Fremont from Plattsmouth with a modern printing outfit, including good presses, type, etc., and founded the Fremont Weekly Tribune.

The first issue pulled from the press was dated July 24, 1868, and the office was in a small, tucked-up attic over Usher & Sawtell's furniture store. The paper was a seven-column folio, well filled with advertising from the start and has been a great business medium ever since. The first office of publication was at the corner of Sixth and "F" streets. It may be of interest to read a part of the salutatory, as it shows the original policy of the paper:

"With this issue we commence the publication of the *Fremont Tribune*. The paper was started to supply a want existing in this place for some means of making known the advantages of this section of the country and offering a convenient organ for discussion of matters of local interest. It will not be indifferent to the great political contest now going on in this country and cheerfully enlists as a supporter of the great principles advocated by the National Republican party and the election of Grant and Colfax."

Mr. Hays conducted the paper until January, 1872, when Frank G. Parcell purchased an interest and became business manager, the firm name changing to J. N. Hays & Co. This continued until death overtook Mr. Hays in 1873.

Soon after his death a company purchased the plant and operated it as the "Tribune Printing Company" with Fred Nye as editor. In 1877 W. H. Michael purchased a half interest and thereafter it was conducted by Michael & Nye. In May, 1879, Browne & Hammond came into possession of the plant and the following autumn Mr. Browne sold his half interest to George Hammond & Son—Frank Hammond being

editor. In 1882, Ross L. Hammond secured a half interest and the firm was known as Hammond Brothers, with Frank as business manager and Ross L. as editor. In March, 1891, Harry W. Hammond, a younger brother, came into the firm and later sold his interest to his brothers.

In May, 1883, the Tribune blossomed out into a daily edition. Later on the weekly edition was changed into a tri-weekly, which was discontinued in 1917 because of the inroads made on the tri-weekly subscription list by the establishment of rural routes, when the farmers were given a daily mail service.

In January of 1920, Ross L. Hammond, who held a half interest, sold most of his holdings to other stockholders and retired to a comfortable home in Southern California, after forty years' continuous service as



HON. ROSS L. HAMMOND, EDITOR FOR FORTY YEARS OF FREMONT DAILY TRIBUNE

editor. Mr. Hammond's retirement made an official change in the management which is as follows: Frank Hammond, president and editor; Ray W. Hammond, vice-president and manager; Lucius R. Hammond, secretary and assistant manager; Walter B. Reynolds, treasurer and circulation manager. Harvey C. Kendall, who is advertising manager, with the foregoing officers constitute the board of directors.

In 1881 a two-story brick block was erected by the Tribune owners and partially occupied at that time. As the business grew, tenants moved out and the plant spread into the building until it now occupies the original building, with a 50 per cent addition erected in 1902. In that year the plant was visited by a destructive fire but not a single issue of the Daily Tribune was missed through the kindness of competitors granting use of their presses. The newspaper department is well equipped with linotype machines and a rapid press of the rotary type, that will print

30,000 sixteen-page papers per hour. The news of the world comes direct to the editorial rooms over a leased wire. Twenty carrier boys deliver the papers in the city. Some of the best business men of the city have been carrier boys for the Daily Tribune.

A large job printing and manufacturing plant is operated in conjunction with the newspaper and equipped with all the latest machinery for rapid and efficient work. Traveling men cover several states soliciting for this department. A combined force of seventy people, besides the carrier boys, are required to take care of the volume of business that has been developed. The annual payroll is in excess of \$100,000.

The burden of the present management rests in the hands of young men who are competent to maintain the growth and prosperity that has marked a history of the institution since its founding in 1868 and the Tribune will continue to be one of the leading factors in the development of the town and state.

THE FREMONT WEEKLY HERALD

The Fremont Herald is a weekly paper published in the City of Fremont, each week on Friday. It was established in 1870 by W. T. Shaffer. Later it was owned and conducted by R. D. Kelly, who in 1873 established the Daily Herald, which was continued for some years.

In 1876 Nat W. Smails came into possession of this plant, when the weekly was issued each Thursday, and the daily each day except Monday. The Herald is among the oldest newspapers in Nebraska, the daily being the oldest of any paper in the state outside Omaha and Lincoln. In the nineties its editor was a Mr. Smith of Coldwater, Michigan.

Today, the Weekly Herald is an independent Democratic paper. It is a six-column paper with from eight to fourteen pages, all home print. Its subscription rate is \$2.00 per year in advance. Its circulation is largely in Fremont and Dodge County, with a fair list in adjoining counties.

In 1905 this newspaper was taken possession of by an incorporated company, of which Marc G. Perkins was made president; Frank S. Perkins, secretary, and Marion M. Perkins, vice president. It is published at present at 229-233 East Fifth Street.

The printing plant is fully equipped with the latest improved machinery for both newspaper and commercial printing. The Herald is a clean, well-edited, handsomely printed newspaper and it always seeks to give the people the latest news in the best style, hence is appreciated by a large patronage.

THE NORTH BEND EAGLE

This newspaper was established at North Bend November 1, 1897, by Charles S. Fowler and Joseph C. Newsom. It was owned and conducted by Messrs. Fowler & Newsom from November, 1897, to September 27, 1900, when Mr. Fowler's interest in the paper was purchased by Mr. Newsom, who has retained the ownership and management ever since, except for one year during 1918-19 spent in France, when the paper was leased for that time to E. O. Holub.

Politically this is an independent paper. In size and form it is an eight-page, six-column paper and has a good circulation in North Bend and tributary country. It is published on Thursday each week. Subscription rate is \$1.50 per year in advance.

The paper is published in a building owned by the proprietor of the paper and is valued at \$2,500. As to its mechanical equipment it may be stated that it has a Prouty power press, two Gordon jobbers, Model "L". Standard linotype, paper cutter, stapling machine, etc.

The following abstract of the Eagle runs about as follows:

The Eagle succeeded the North Bend Argus, founded April, 1890, by W. K. Fowler and C. S. Fowler, and the North Bend Republican, founded in November, 1892, by Anna L. Dowden, were merged or consolidated by C. S. Fowler and J. C. Newsom, Fowler having previously purchased his brother's interest in the Argus, and J. C. Newsom having purchased the Republican of Mrs. Dowden.

The first newspaper published in North Bend was the Independent, established by Doctor Elwood in 1879.

THE HOOPER SENTINEL

This newspaper was established at Hooper, April 22, 1885, by W. A. Crandall. The owners of this property have included these: W. A. Crandall, E. W. Renkin, C. E. Bennett, J. I. Brorby, Shipley & Thompson, W. G. Thompson, Glen Howard, Sedgwick & Ring, H. T. Ring, the last named owning it since 1914.

Politically the Sentinel is independent. It circulates mostly in Hooper and surrounding country. It is a six-column eight-page paper, printed each week on Thursday morning. It is \$1.50 per year subscription rate in advance and has six pages "home print."

The office equipment includes these items: A 10 by 15 jobber, a paper press that prints four pages at one time; and all necessary material for a country newspaper plant. Locally the Sentinel is a most excellent paper.

THE UEHLING POST

This newspaper is published at the new Village of Uehling in the northeastern part of Dodge County. It was established in 1919 by Gus H. Weber, who still owns and conducts it as a weekly local newspaper. It is a six-column folio paper, printed each Friday. It circulates throughout Logan Valley Township and its subscription rate is \$1.50 per year. The proprietor is his own printer and is a hustler in all that this term has come to mean.

The first paper started in Uehling was the "Press" by R. S. Honey.

R. D. Kelly started the Times which ran about five years and went down. Politically it was republican.

THE SCRIBNER RUSTLER

This local newspaper was established at Scribner in January, 1895. Just who the founder was is not known, but it is known that it was owned by Henry Kidder ten years; by Otto Metschke six years; R. R. Roberts one year and Charles E. Majers has owned and conducted it since December 1, 1918. Politically the Rustler is an independent paper, circulating in various parts of Dodge County; is a six-column, eight-page paper all home print. It is published each Thursday at a subscription price of \$2.00 per year.

The Rustler and Scribner News, the other paper of the town, consolidated about 1912.

Five years ago (1915) a wood-cement block building was erected especially for newspaper business. The office equipment includes a six-column quarto press—a folder, job press and a Cranston pony cylinder press for job and book work. In all the plant has in operation four presses and a linotype machine, stapler, perforator and all usual type found in such an office.

The present owner edits a clean local paper and has a large job printing patronage in first-class work. "If you see it in the *Rustler* it is true" would make a good motto for the *Rustler*.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Fremont had the honor of being one of the first points in Nebraska where a Young Men's Christian Association was established. It was formed here even before the state was admitted into the Union. This did not flourish many years, but in May, 1881, it was reorganized with charter members as follows: A. C. Hopkins, M. G. McCoon, Rev. A. B. Byram, C. C. Birdsall, A. R. Wightman, R. E. Doran, Mark C. Sander-son, Robert Hewett, F. M. Smith, Rev. A. T. Swing, F. M. Griswold, G. King, E. T. Smith, W. A. Marlow and L. C. Sweet.

The first officers were: Robert Hewett, president; W. A. Marlow, vice president; D. A. Lumbard, secretary; L. C. Sweet, treasurer. The first active president was Prof. A. R. Wightman. Meetings were held in the churches, a lecture course was provided for, prayer meetings were instituted and continued until the fall of 1884 when the society disbanded.

Again in 1888 the work was resumed and the ensuing November the association had a membership of fifty-three men and by 1892 it had increased to 175. They were legally incorporated in September, 1891, and purchased forty-four feet on the southwest corner of Broad and Fifth streets, and from that time on the "Y. M. C. A." became a permanent fixture among the religious societies in Fremont.

The present magnificent three-story modern brick block on the location last named was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$80,000 and it has none of the best modern appointments lacking.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

This society has been for more than a generation a power for good in Fremont. It was formed by devoted Christian women who loved temperance and virtue more than money or even life itself. They organized in 1874 with only a half dozen members, including Mesdames Hitchcock, Bullock, Griswold and Rogers. The first president was Lucy Rogers. Up to 1888 they met at private houses, but that year erected the Women's Christian Temperance Union Temple at the corner of Broad and Military avenue, in which they had a library and reading room, as well as a fine audience chamber. All along down the years the devoted women of the city have battled against the rum traffic until their prayers have been answered and liquor is no longer master in the fair state and nation.

CHAPTER XIII

SOIL AND DRAINAGE OF DODGE COUNTY

(By DAN V. STEPHENS)

Dodge County, Nebraska, is one of the very best agricultural districts to be found in the United States, due to its uniformly rich soils and excellent natural drainage.

The soils of this county may be roughly divided into three groups, upland, terrace and bottom soils. The upland group includes the Marshall and Knox series; the terrace soils are classed in the Waukesha and Scott series, and those of the bottoms in the Wabash, Lomaure, Cass and Sarpy series. The bottom soils represent alluvium, derived from bordering uplands.

Of these three groups, the Marshall soils represent about one-third of the area of the county and is a remnant of the original loess plains. It is also the highest in elevation. It is cut into four areas, the largest covering the northwest portion of the county, west of the Elkhorn and north of Maple Creek valleys. The second covers the north central section between the Elkhorn and Logan valleys. The third covers the northeast part of the county lying east of Logan Valley and north of the Elkhorn Valley. The fourth section covers the central part of the upland lying south of Maple Creek extending from the Knoell Ravine on the east to School No. 30 on the west, a distance of about ten miles. The remaining portions of these uplands lying to the east and west belong to the terrace classifications and are of a more recent formation.

The Marshall soil is characterized by its uniform soil particles and its tendency to split into vertical planes producing perpendicular bluffs along water courses and roads subject to erosion. The Marshall soil is the result of the loess formation supposed to have had its origin in the ice age. It is uniform in character and contains in proper proportions all the natural elements for crop productions throughout its entire depth. These Marshall hills have given rise to the terrace soils much of the same character.

The terrace lands, constituting in the main the upland between the Platte and Maple Creek valleys, is a valley filling deposit laid down in prehistoric times from the wash from the original loess plains. One can imagine the great slowly moving ice sheet shaving off the tops of the loess hills and filling up the then existing valleys to be later recut by our present water courses without regard to the ancient channels. This theory at least explains why the upland south of Maple Creek is composed of both the old Marshall formation and the more recent terrace deposit, both soils being similar in character and productiveness, one being the wash of the other.

The bottom lands in the main consist of alluvium, a product of erosion from all the various soil formations in the adjoining uplands. It naturally follows that rich upland soils produce rich bottom lands. With the exception of the Platte River Valley, the other bottom lands of the county form a colluvial soil resulting from the erosion of the near-by uplands. The Platte Valley soils, however, have been modified somewhat by the erosions from the mountains where the river finds its source.

The Marshall and Waukesha soils comprising the uplands of the county are remarkable crop soils, exceedingly friable and productive. These soils resist drouth longer than any other soil known and will produce a wider range of crops. Corn, wheat, oats and alfalfa are the staple crops, but these wonderful soils will produce any cereal crop that will grow in this latitude.

A little to the south and west of the center of the county on the highest point of the upland between the Platte and Maple Creek valleys just east of School No. 30, a magnificent view is afforded of a very large section of the county. Standing on this eminence of the Marshall formation looking south, one can get, on a clear day, a magnificent view of the great Platte River Valley. For 25 or 30 miles east and west, the mighty checkerboard of farms can be seen with its alternating fields of corn and wheat. Turning to the north, the beautiful Maple Creek Valley winds from the west to the east, visible for a dozen miles in its course and far beyond it over the upland table to the northeast, the Elkhorn bluffs twenty miles away are clearly outlined against the sky line. It is a marvelous sight not only from a scenic point of view but from an agricultural one as well, for practically every acre of this land is highly productive and tillable. Few spots like it can be found in the whole wide world and none excel it.

SURFACE DRAINAGE

Dodge County is drained by the Platte and Elkhorn rivers together with their numerous tributaries, Logan, Maple, Pebble and Rawhide creeks. The uplands are adequately drained with a few exceptions of swales here and there without surface outlets. The valleys, however, being flat with the water table close to the surface, were not naturally sufficiently drained. The Platte and Elkhorn valleys, constituting about one-fourth of the area of the county, represented a great loss to agriculture because of the lack of adequate drainage. The lands were given up to the production of wild hay, which contained a minimum amount of food values. Finally about 1890, a few drainage ditches were constructed in the Platte River Valley, and from this small and inefficient beginning, a few years later a complete system of surface drainage was laid out through the organization of districts. The result has been the reclamation of many thousand acres of land, practically the whole of the Platte River Valley within the county. Drainage ditches have been constructed in the Elkhorn Valley, also, until the swamp lands have practically disappeared.

TILE DRAINAGE

Some sections of these valleys require still further drainage by tiling, owing to the character of the soils, and some larger farms have been drained with tile. Among them, Maple Grove farm, owned by the author of this article, and Idlewild, owned by Mrs. R. B. Schneider, and a large farm owned by Mr. L. M. Keene, east of Fremont, and scores of smaller farms.

The first effort at reclamation of wet land by tile drainage was made by Phillip Rine on Maple Creek. It was a very successful experiment though on a small scale. This led the author to undertake the first project of any considerable size in the county, namely, 440 acres of his farm at the foot of the Platte River bluffs on the north side of the

valley six miles northwest of Ames. The history of this operation and theory of the value of tile drainage may be of value in this connection:

By placing under this land a complete system of tile drainage it was possible to keep the water table at a depth of three feet, and as there was a constant supply of water at this level, a remarkable result was obtained—namely, that regardless of rainfall practically speaking, this land could neither "drown out" nor "dry out." During an exceedingly dry season grain roots would go down to the water that was available always just below the level of the tile lines; when the rainfall was excessive, the surplus water rushed away through the vast system of tiles, leaving growing crops free from the effects of too much water.

More than seventy carloads of tile were used on this job which cost the owner approximately \$20,000, or nearly \$50 an acre. There are six ten and twelve inch mains each from one-half to three-quarters of a mile long, with scores of miles of four, five and six inch laterals extending out from these mains covering the entire 440 acres, so that there is not a foot of ground more than fifty feet from a line of tile.

INCREASE IN CROP PRODUCTION

This system was carefully laid out by two competent farm drainage engineers and in the years it has been in use it has abundantly justified the expense in the increase in crop productions. The second crop of corn on the first 120 acres brought under cultivation averaged for the whole tract seventy bushels to the acre. One wheat crop for the whole farm averaged forty-one bushels with one field reaching a yield of fifty-eight bushels to the acre. The largest oat crop averaged eighty-seven bushels to the acre. There were also poor yields now and then but these maximum yields show the possibilities of the land when properly handled under favorable conditions.

THEORY OF DRAINAGE

Drainage by tiling makes land dryer in wet weather and wetter in dry weather. Any hot, dry day in August one can dig down a foot from the surface over a tile line and find the soil so moist it can be molded into a ball. Half way between the lines the earth will be dry and dusty. The reason for this seeming paradox is found in physics. The subsoil is much colder than the surface. As the warm moisture-laden air at summer heat passes through the colder subsoil in its circulation through the tiling it deposits its surplus moisture in the soil just as beads of water form on the pitcher of ice water in hot weather; whereas midway between the lines this physical phenomenon would scarcely be noticed at all where the drawing power of the tile is at its lowest point.

On the other hand, it drains quickly from the soil all surplus water. The capillary water is that water which is naturally absorbed by the soil. Every microscopic particle of soil is covered by a film of water. The soil will naturally absorb enough water to envelop its microscopic particles. This film of water cannot be drained out of the soil. Therefore it is impossible to overdrain land. As proof of this law, suspend a dry towel over a pan of water permitting the end to touch the water. Watch the water creep rapidly up the towel. Every particle of fabric hungrily envelops itself in water—just enough and not one drop of surplus is absorbed. That is capillary water and in the soil is lost only in two ways; through absorption by plants and through evaporation.



TYPICAL DODGE COUNTY CORN FIELD

HOW THE PLANTS FEED

The tiling brings the warm air into the cold soil that has formerly been waterlogged. This warm air warms the soil and makes a favorable breeding ground for plant bacteria. These little forms multiply by the billions breaking down vegetable matter and making available the raw materials and translating them into assimilable food for plants. Their little microscopic bodies are quickly dissolved into this film of water enveloping the soil particles and the water becomes rich in food values. Tiny rootlets drink this solution and the plant shows the effect of the food by its rich dark green color and luxuriant growth. Contrast these well-fed plants with those in land that has not tile drainage where the soil is cold or waterlogged. Whenever the water in the soil increases to the point of complete saturation the envelop of water which contains the rich plant food breaks up and the soil particles float in a sea of water. The solution becomes so diluted the plants cannot secure adequate food. They become yellow and sickly and their growth greatly checked if not completely stopped.

EFFECTS OF TILING

An example of the marvelous effect on crop productions was clearly shown by the first experiment in drainage on this farm. The first eighty tiled was plowed and planted to corn. The lines were 200 feet apart running across the eighty the short way. The corn was planted the short way also. In the month of August visitors who were driven along the turn row the full length of the eighty could look down the corn rows. As they approached and crossed a tile line the corn gradually rose in height around twelve and fourteen feet, and then gradually it dwindled in size to not over a foot in height midway between the lines. Along the tile lines the corn was a dark green color and luxuriant in growth, gradually fading out to a sickly yellow as the effect of the tiling diminished. Over the tile lines, and for a considerable distance on either side, the surplus of water was drained away and the plant food was made available in abundance. The absence of water and presence of warm air made the soil a splendid home for plant bacteria. The soil midway between the lines was waterlogged and cold. Bacteria could not live in such soil, therefore, the abundance of plant food in the soil was not available for the corn. It was too thin to furnish proper nourishment because of the surplus of water in which it was in solution. It was a remarkable sight—the alternating ridges of dark green corn twelve to fourteen feet high, at intervals of every 200 feet over tile lines, with corresponding depressions midway between the lines of yellow corn a foot high, both extending across the full width of the eighty, with exact regularity. This example was so convincing to the owner of the value of tile, he immediately laid lines of tile between the existing lines, doubling the original system. The year following the completion of this doubling of the lines, he harvested from this eighty and adjoining forty which had been tiled at the same time over 8,000 bushels of corn, or about seventy bushels to the acre.

CHAPTER XIV

DODGE COUNTY AND MODERN ROADS

(BY WILLIAM H. BUSS)

The substance of this chapter was derived from a very instructive interview, obtained by one of our editors, from the Hon. George F. Wolz, popularly known as "Good Roads Wolz," who, to use an historical term, might well be called "The Great Waywarden" of eastern Nebraska. This very busy and useful citizen wears with characteristic modesty several other distinctions. He is commissioner of the Fremont Commercial Club; president of the State Good Roads Association, and state consul for the Lincoln Highway. Seen by our editor, he very cordially granted an interview, recognizing at once that the new History of Dodge and Washington Counties would be comparable with Hamlet, with Hamlet left out, if it should fail to include a chapter on modern good roads. He agreed that the presentation should begin far back in human annals, and in the acknowledgment that among all the ancients the mighty people of Rome were the most efficient road-builders, and that all subsequent nations had learned much from them. Portions of Roman roads, after more than 2,000 years, are still in use and are among the most notable memorials of antiquity. However, with the decline of the Roman empire, interest in good highways fell away, and not until the middle of the Eighteenth Century was that interest revived. France was the leader of the new movement, to be speedily followed by England, and the main roads of Europe have, for 150 years, been of high and excellent quality, admired by all tourists. The highways of our own country, on the contrary, up to a half-century ago, were left to themselves, very largely, and were a discredit to our civilization.

Such care as they received was rendered by local authorities, who with no adequate system, or Government encouragement, slighted them, and suffered them to come to such degeneration as they might. The United States Government took charge of the roads in national parks, but left all others to the people who use them. It is an interesting historic fact that it was the invention and introduction of the bicycle, which first awakened practical attention to the need of better roads. In our own county before that time the pathways of travel were often impassable from mud and water; whole stretches were a mass of gopher mounds, rendering the road perilous; and the grades, where the bluffs by the rivers were approached, were not infrequently of 15 per cent. Attempts at improvement include the casting up, in this section, of the Broad Street grade in 1880 and that on Military Avenue in 1885. The roads west of the county seat were through a sand region and needed less help. The use of the bicycle, first of the high-wheel variety and then of the safety, became very general and popular, and the imperative need of better roads was more and more generally felt. This grew out of the fact that relay races were attempted from coast to coast, and century runs were widely practiced. Then came the advent of the automobile and vastly augmented the popular cry for better roads. At first the autocar could be used only in summer and fall and never in winter or

rainy weather. The mud and snow and their effects made it impossible. These discoveries were made by such pioneers in gas-motor vehicles as Ross L. Hammond and Dan V. Stephens and soon the press took up the agitation for good roads at public expense. As in all times of progress opposition soon developed and it was asserted that the demand was for the taxation of property holders in the interest of joy-riders, the aristocrats of motor travel. But automobile owners multiplied; the Ford was invented and the friends of good roads rapidly increased. Pioneer enterprise in this direction began to develop. The Fremont Commercial Club agitated for a co-operative movement in making the Arlington Road fit for gas-car travel, and finally in co-operation with Elkhorn Township raised and expended \$1,500 for that pioneering project. This led soon



OLD STAGE COACH

after to the expenditure of \$21,000 in Elkhorn Township for good roads of a similar order. Incidental advantages of great worth soon were experienced. The ditches excavated in road-building naturally constituted drainage districts which so benefited adjacent farms that from being swamplands they became among the most productive in the county.

All this led to Government action which has since developed into a most elaborate system of good-roads manufacture and preservation. In the Department of Agriculture at Washington there was established a road division, whose function was the study of the whole subject; its supervision and the distribution of Federal aid. The first appropriation was for \$65,000,000 to be met by an equal amount from the several states. The second appropriation was for \$100,000,000, and a third for \$200,000,000, and then were established district departments for the administration of these funds. The first Nebraska legislation in the interest of

good roads in connection with motor-travel was the imposition of a tax of \$3.00 on each machine, to be used to this purpose. This was in 1911. In 1915 a State Highway Advisory Board was created to supervise the general work and to recommend Government action. Legislation was adopted providing also signs and markings for the identification of routes of travel. In 1917 the first attempt was made by our state to provide its part in response to the \$65,000,000 Government appropriation and in 1919 liberal legislation was secured in co-operation with this and also with the later and larger appropriations. There was made a 3 mill levy for two years; and an automobile tax was voted to bring in \$3,000,000 for road maintenance. This legislation secured \$10,500,000 for the whole state, of which Dodge County received \$127,000. Then the auto tax of 1920, amounting to \$60,000, was available, to which was added a city and county levy of 4 mills each. The outcome is that by act of the State Legislature we now have a splendid state highway system, of which Dodge County has eighty miles, maintained by a state patrol system which is increasingly efficient. Still another law allows townships and counties to vote bonds not to exceed 10 per cent of assessed valuation, for road construction.

Following are the names of the five Dodge County highways which have come into being through this legislation:

- (1) Lincoln Highway East. Lincoln Highway West.
- (2) B Line, running from Fremont to Blair.
- (3) Cornhusker Highway; Manville, Kansas, to Sioux City.
- (4) Black Hills Trail, Omaha to Deadwood.
- (5) Fremont-Albion Highway.

These are considered as the beginning of a great system of highways, perfecting our county system of modern roads.

The matter of good roads mileage is of great interest. Nine hundred out of a total of 1,054 miles in the county, are graded, and the strong tendency is toward a general grading, drainage and surfacing. The public interest is nearly universal, and the present co-operation is most encouraging; and much to the credit of our splendid commonwealth. Much might be said of the value of good roads to the county, which most citizens now recognize. Of course they result in augmented credit, in the east, where capital seeks investment. The question which is asked when application is made for a loan on farm lands is apt to be this: "What highway is your property upon?"

Then as a result of paved roads passing farms, land values have increased in some known cases fully \$50 per acre.

What advantage good roads render in the matter of transportation, either in the speed or comfort of travel, or in the marketing of farm products simply cannot be estimated. That is the reason trucking has become so vast and growing a business, and of such profit to agriculturists and consumers. Instead of this constituting harmful competition with railroads, it is a benefit to the companies, who do not care for the short hauls so much, preferring to care for their long hauling without expensive interruptions.

But other values resulting from good modern highways are of a still higher quality. They are educational and social; also constructively moral and of the first civic worth.

The consolidation of country schools, now recognized as so great and positive an advance in the promotion of rural educational interests, is very largely the issue of the good-roads enterprise. Throughout the county it will soon be a common sight to behold special school-trucks

equipped for the safe and quick transportation of Young America to the central school buildings, and in all weathers, with comfort and punctuality.

These same buildings made so easily accessible by good roads, will become more and more used centers of community interests, in which the social, civic and ethical life of the people will be conserved and promoted. The rural problem, long seeming so increasingly difficult and despairful, is likely to find its happy solution through the modern facilities for travel and transportation; higher standards of home and civil life will take precedence, and the country once more become, through the new exodus from the abnormal life of the city, the fountain of the best ideals of our American life. There is no truer patriotic duty than to encourage this movement back to the farm and toward the contributory perfecting of the highway system of our steadily progressive Dodge County.

CHAPTER XV

POLITICAL

GENERAL COMMENT—VOTE ON GOVERNORS—STATE SENATORS—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—PARTY VOTE OF COUNTY BY DECADES SINCE 1868—COUNTY JUDGES—COUNTY ATTORNEY—COUNTY TREASURERS—COUNTY CLERKS—CLERK OF THE COURT—SHERIFFS—SURVEYORS—SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—REGISTRAR OF DEEDS—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Every true citizen has a political ambition, and although he may never reach the highest pinnacle there is a possibility that his children may. There is an excitement about a political campaign which all enjoy and although personalities are frequently indulged in, as a general rule all yield gracefully to the verdict of the people, a majority vote, and submit themselves unto the "powers that be."

The various tables of party vote, etc., here annexed will give the reader of this volume a fair idea of the political faith of the people of Dodge County from 1854 down to the present time. Much careful research in the county election records upon the part of the compiler of this work has brought out the following roster of both state and county officials:

VOTE ON GOVERNORS		Vote	Majority
1870—D. Butler		434	65
J. H. Croxton		369	
1872—Robert W. Furnas.....		241	
H. C. Lett		327	86
1874—Silas Garber		726	168
Albert Tuxbury		558	
1876—(No returns given)			
1878—A. Nance		942	66
W. H. Webster		876	
1880—A. Nance		1,439	357
T. W. Tipton		1,082	
1882—J. W. Dawes		1,129	
J. S. Morton		1,463	334
1884—J. W. Dawes		1,589	
J. S. Morton		1,724	135
1886—John M. Thayer		1,324	
James E. North		1,511	40
H. W. Hardy		147	
1888—John M. Thayer		1,780	
S. A. McShane.....		2,320	379
Geo. E. Bigelow		169	
1890—L. D. Richards.....		1,623	
J. E. Boyd		2,127	504
J. H. Powers		549	
1892—Lorenzo Crounse		1,348	
J. Sterling Morton		1,676	326
C. E. Bentley		89	
Chas. H. Van Wyck		680	

(The names of the governors elected from this point to present time are here given, but not the abstract of votes.)

- 1895-99—Silas Holcomb.
- 1901—William A. Poynter.
- 1901—Charles Dietrich.
- 1901-03—E. P. Savage.
- 1903-07—John H. Mickey.
- 1907-09—George L. Sheldon.
- 1909-11—A. C. Shellenberger.
- 1911-13—Chester H. Aldrich.
- 1913-17—John H. Moorehead.
- 1917-19—Keith Neville.
- 1919-21—Samuel R. McKelvie.

STATE SENATORS

The following shows the years served by the various state senators representing Dodge County:

- 1866—David Leach.
- 1867—William A. Preston.
- 1869—(No record.)
- 1871—A. W. Tenant.
- 1873—S. W. Hayes.
- 1875—H. D. Perky.
- 1877—G. F. Blanchard.
- 1879—William Marshall.
- 1881—Isaac Power, Jr.
- 1883—Charles Sang.
- 1885—John E. Shervin.
- 1887—John E. Shervin.
- 1889—John Dern.
- 1891—J. M. Brown.
- 1893—John Thomsen.
- 1895—S. W. Hayes.
- 1897-09—W. D. Haller.
- 1909-13—Fred Volpp.
- 1913-15—Geo. F. Wolz.
- 1915-17—Wallace H. Wilson.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

(Territorial.)

- 1855—M. H. Clark.
- 1857—Silas E. Seeley.
- 1859—Henry W. De Puy.
- 1860—Samuel H. Elbert.
- 1862—Samuel H. Elbert.
- 1864—C. Blanchard.
- 1866—Geo. J. Turton.
- 1867—J. E. Dorsey.

(Under Statehood.)

- 1867—Henry P. Beebe.
- 1869—E. H. Barnard.
- 1871—A. C. Briggs, Frank Kupp.
- 1873—Milton May.
- 1875—J. W. Barnes.

1877—N. S. Belden.
 1879—G. C. Bruce.
 1881—Wm. Fried.
 1883—J. C. Homer.
 1885—F. E. White, John Heinrich.
 1887—James G. Gamble, C. F. Eisley.
 1889—L. P. Larson.
 1891—N. P. Nelson.
 1893—N. P. Nelson.
 1894—W. J. McVicker.
 1895—Joseph Roberts.
 1897—S. S. Van Horn, W. D. Holbrook.
 1899—M. T. Zallers.
 1901—Daniel Swanson, George L. Loomis.
 1902—William J. Harman, George L. Loomis.
 1903—George L. Loomis, William J. Harman.
 1905—Joseph Roberts, William J. Harman.
 1907—F. A. Howe, J. H. Knowles.
 1909—F. P. Lawrence, William J. McVicker.
 1911—William J. McVicker, F. P. Lawrence.
 1912—George W. Losey.
 1913—M. E. Shipley, George W. Losey.
 1914—William G. J. Dau.
 1915—C. E. Sievers, William G. J. Dau.
 1916—Norman E. Shaffer, William G. J. Dau.
 1917—William G. J. Dau, N. E. Shaffer.
 1918—Andrew Prost.

COUNTY JUDGES

The first probate or county judge in Dodge County was S. I. Francis, who held the office by appointment, from early in 1856 to January 1, 1857, after which came the following soon after their election:

1856—James G. Smith (rep.).
 1857—Samuel Strickland (rep.).
 1859—Samuel Strickland (rep.).
 1860—E. H. Barnard (rep.).
 1861—L. H. Rogers (rep.).
 1863—H. P. Beebe (rep.).
 1865—J. H. Crabbs (rep.).
 1867—E. C. Usher (rep.).
 1869—E. C. Usher (rep.).
 1871—N. H. Bell (rep.).
 1873—W. C. Ghost (dem.).
 1875—W. C. Ghost (dem.).
 1877—W. H. Ely (dem.).
 1879—W. H. Ely (dem.).
 1881—James Murray (dem.).
 1883—James Murray (dem.).
 1885—J. J. Barge (dem.).
 1887—J. J. Barge (dem.).
 1889—William H. Hunter (dem.).
 1891—William H. Hunter (dem.).
 1893—Claus H. Plambeck.
 1895—Claus H. Plambeck.

1897—Waldo Wintersteen.
1899—Waldo Wintersteen.
1903—A. H. Briggs.
1905—Robert J. Stinson.
1909—Robert J. Stinson.
1911—Robert J. Stinson.
1914—Waldo Wintersteen.
1918—Waldo Wintersteen.

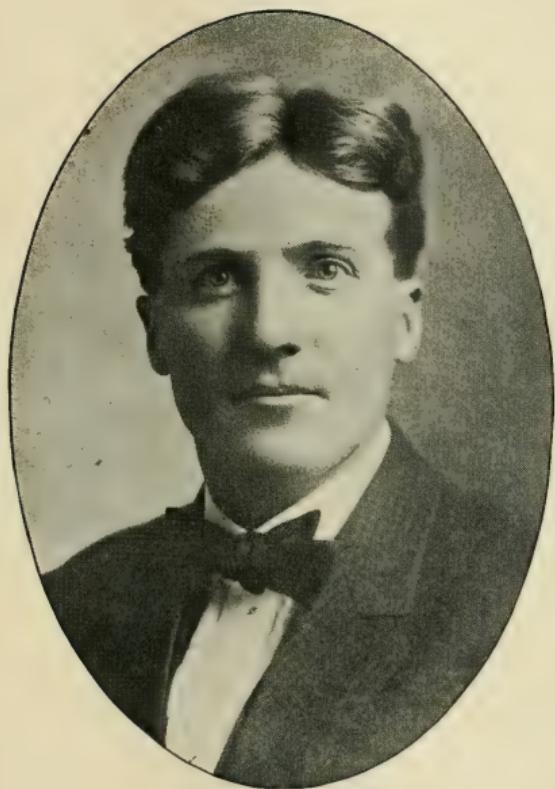
COUNTY ATTORNEY

This office was created to go into effect in 1888. Prior to that such business was looked after by attorneys employed by the commissioners, as also by the prosecuting attorney who served for the whole judicial district. In 1888 George R. Loomis (dem.) was elected and in 1890 C. Hollenback (dem.) was elected and re-elected in the fall of 1892.

1894—J. W. C. Abbott.
1895—Grant G. Martin.
1906—John W. Graham.
1914—Fred W. Button.
1916—J. C. Cook.
1918—J. C. Cook.

COUNTY CLERKS

1856—Samuel D. Prescott (appointed).
1856—Julius Brainard (election), rep.
1859—John Ray (rep.).
1861—J. F. Reynolds (rep.).
1863—E. H. Rogers (rep.).
1865—E. H. Rogers (rep.).
1867—A. G. Brugh (rep.).
1869—A. G. Brugh (rep.).
1871—L. M. Keene (rep.).
1873—L. M. Keene (rep.).
1875—Charles Sang (dem.).
1877—Charles Sang (dem.).
1879—G. C. Kerkow (dem.).
1881—J. C. Kerkow (dem.).
1883—G. H. Forney (rep.).
1885—G. H. Forney (rep.).
1887—O. H. P. Shively (rep.).
1889—Thomas Killeen (dem.).
1891—Thomas Killeen (dem.).
1893—Wenzel Legro.
1895—Charles A. Manville.
1897—Charles A. Manville.
1899—George A. Murrell.
1903—C. O. Boe.
1905—C. O. Boe.
1907—James A. Donahue.
1909—James A. Donahue.
1911—John O'Connor.
1914—John O'Connor.
1916—W. E. Barz, present clerk.



JOSEPH C. COOK

COUNTY TREASURERS

1856—H. P. Beebe.
 1858—Silas J. Francis (rep.).
 1859—Silas J. Francis (rep.).
 1860—H. C. Campbell (rep.).
 1861—H. C. Campbell (rep.).
 1863—George W. Wolcott (not qualifying, Theron Nye (rep.) was appointed).
 1865—Theron Nye (rep.).
 1867—E. H. Barnard (rep.).
 1869—S. B. Colson (rep.).
 1871—S. B. Colson (rep.).
 1873—A. C. Briggs (rep.).
 1875—John E. Shervin (dem.).
 1877—John E. Shervin (dem.).
 1879—John Grunkranz (dem.).
 1881—John Grunkranz (dem.).
 1883—E. N. Morse (dem.).
 1885—E. N. Morse (dem.).
 1887—B. F. Stouffer (rep.).
 1889—John Dern (dem.).
 1891—John Dern (dem.).
 1893—N. P. Nelson.
 1895—N. P. Nelson.
 1897—William F. Basler.
 1899—William F. Basler.
 1903—George J. Coddington.
 1905—John H. Knoell.
 1907—John H. Knoell.
 1909—Morris Horstmann.
 1914—Ernest Hahn.
 1916—Ernest Hahn.
 1918—Joe Roberts.

CLERK OF THE COURT

Until about 1874 this was an appointive office within the gift of the presiding judge. Julius Barnard was the first to act in such capacity. He was followed by Mr. Hazen. Next came J. J. Hawthorne, who held the position until 1875, when the office was combined with the county clerk's office (ex-officio). The first to hold the two offices was L. M. Keene who served four years when the office again became an office by itself and was also made elective. In 1879 G. H. Forney was elected and in 1881 re-elected; then came the following:

1883—Louis Spear (dem.).
 1885—Louis Spear (dem.).
 1887—George W. Davy (dem.).
 1891—J. M. Shively (rep.).
 1895—James Shively.
 1899—James M. Cruickshank.
 1903—James M. Cruickshank.
 1906—Luke Mundy.
 1911—Luke Mundy.
 1916—Peter F. Mitterling.

SHERIFFS

1856—J. M. Hancock.
1859—Henry C. Lemmon.
1860—John B. Watterman.
1861—William Wilson.
1863—J. H. Teats.
1865—J. H. Teats.
1867—Ed Fuller.
1869—D. M. Strong (rep.).
1871—Thomas Turner (dem.).
1873—Thomas Turner (dem.).
1875—August Kopplekom (dem.).
1877—August Kopplekom (dem.).
1879—Robert Gregg (dem.).
1881—Robert Gregg (dem.).
1883—Thomas Curran (dem.).
1885—Thomas Curran (dem.).
1887—James P. Mallon (dem.).
1889—James P. Mallon (dem.).
1891—James Milliken (dem.).
1893—James Milliken.
1895—James M. Kreader.
1897—James M. Kreader.
1899—James M. Kreader.
1903—A. Bauman, Jr.
1905—A. Bauman, Jr.
1906—A. Bauman, Jr.
1909—A. Bauman, Jr.
1911—W. C. Condit.
1914—W. C. Condit.
1916—W. C. Condit.
1918—W. C. Condit.

COUNTY LAND SURVEYORS

Prior to 1861 no regular county surveyor was elected.

1861—Isaac E. Heaton (rep.).
1863—Isaac E. Heaton (rep.).
1865—Isaac E. Heaton (rep.).
1867—Isaac E. Heaton (rep.).
1869—F. W. Wirminghaus (rep.).
1871—F. W. Wirminghaus (rep.).
1873—F. W. Wirminghaus (rep.).
1875—John W. Dougherty (rep.).
(L. D. Richards filled out term.)
1877—L. D. Richards (rep.).
1879—C. W. Hyatt (rep.).
1881—G. W. D. Reynolds (dem.).
1883—Herman Radicke (dem.).
1885—Herman Radicke (dem.).
1887—Chris Baysel (dem.).
1889—J. W. Andrews (dem.).
1891—J. W. Andrews (dem.).
1893—G. W. D. Reynolds.

- 1895—John W. Andrews.
- 1897—W. J. McVickers.
- 1899—W. J. McVickers.
- 1903—William M. Sanders.
- 1905—William M. Sanders.
- 1907—William M. Sanders.
- 1909—W. M. Sanders.
- 1911—W. M. Sanders.
- 1914—W. M. Sanders.
- 1916—W. M. Sanders.
- 1918—W. M. Sanders.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The functions of this office from 1856 to 1869 were not what they were in later years and indeed were not well defined by the statutes. A. G. Brugh, Mr. Campbell and Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, served as a sort of school superintendent in their respective order. Mr. Heaton selected a portion of the school lands and examined some of the earlier teachers. In 1860 the present system became a state law, or soon after Nebraska was admitted into the Union.

- 1869—W. H. Ely (dem.). He resigned and
Reverend Wilson was appointed.
- 1871—John Cayton (rep.).
- 1873—John Cayton (rep.).
- 1875—H. G. Wolcott (rep.).
- 1877—George W. Simpson (dem.).
- 1879—George A. Stanley (dem.).
- 1881—George A. Stanley (dem.).
- 1883—E. M. Springer.
- 1885—Frank C. Tym (dem.).
- 1887—A. E. Clarendon (rep.).
- 1889—D. V. Stephens (dem.).
- 1891—D. V. Stephens (dem.).
- 1893—J. A. Collins.
- 1895—J. A. Collins.
- 1897—Conrad O. Boe.
- 1899—Conrad O. Boe.
- 1903—Charles Arnot.
- 1905—John N. Matzen.
- 1907—John N. Matzen.
- 1909—John N. Matzen.
- 1911—John N. Matzen.
- 1914—John N. Matzen.
- 1916—John N. Matzen.
- 1918—John N. Matzen.

REGISTRAR OF DEEDS

With two exceptions, the office of registrar and that of county clerk have been a combined office. In 1859 John Evans was elected as registrar, and in 1860, H. W. DePuy was elected. After his time expired the county clerk again resumed the duties which had devolved upon the office known as registrar. In 1892 the law was again changed

in this county since which date there has been a separate office known as "Registrar of Deeds." The following have filled this important position until the present:

- 1893—George F. Looschen.
- 1897—George F. Looschen.
- 1905—John O'Connor.
- 1909—Fred Klaes.
- 1914—Fred Klaes.
- 1918—Ernest Hahn.

CORONERS

There is no complete record of the office of coroner in this county in the early times, hence we give such data as appears of record today: 1893, E. W. Martin; 1895, E. W. Martin; 1897, M. B. Croll; 1899, Robert P. Jensen; 1903, Dr. Frank Brown; 1905, Dr. A. P. Overgaard; 1907, Dr. A. P. Overgaard; 1909, Dr. A. P. Overgaard; 1911, Dr. A. P. Overgaard; 1914, Dr. A. P. Overgaard.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Under the old precinct system in Dodge County the county commissioners who had charge of all county governmental affairs were these:

1856—William E. Lee (dem.), Thomas Fitzsimmons (dem.), L. C. Baldwin.

1857—Thomas Fitzsimmons (dem.), W. E. Lee (dem.), C. A. Whiteford.

1858—C. A. Whiteford, Thomas Fitzsimmons (dem.), G. J. Turton (rep.).

1859—G. J. Turton (rep.), Thomas Fitzsimmons (dem.), Jared Blanchard (rep.).

1860—George Turner (dem.), Thomas Fitzsimmons (dem.), G. J. Turton (dem.).

1861—W. H. Ely (dem.), G. J. Turton (rep.), Thomas Wilson (dem.).

1862—George Turner (dem.), W. H. Ely (dem.), Thomas Wilson (dem.).

1863—W. H. Ely (dem.), George Turner (dem.), V. C. Valentine.

1864—George Young (rep.), J. E. Dorsey (rep.), George Turner (dem.).

1865—George Turner (dem.), George Young (rep.), J. E. Dorsey (rep.).

1866—George Turner (dem.), George Young (rep.), J. E. Dorsey (rep.).

1867—George Young (rep.), Christopher Knoell (rep.), George Turner (dem.).

1868—Robert Graham (rep.), A. C. Briggs (rep.), George Turner (dem.).

1869—George F. Blanchard (rep.), A. C. Briggs (rep.), Robert Graham (rep.).

1870—John P. Eaton (rep.), George F. Blanchard (rep.), A. C. Briggs (rep.).

1871—John P. Eaton (rep.), J. J. Hawthorne (rep.), A. C. Briggs (rep.).

1872—John C. Seeley (rep.), John P. Eaton (rep.), J. J. Hawthorne (rep.).

1873—John P. Seeley (rep.), John P. Eaton (rep.), J. J. Hawthorne (rep.).
 1874—John C. Seeley (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), Baxter Nicodemus (rep.).
 1875—John C. Seeley (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), Theron Nye (ind.).
 1876—E. C. Burns (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), Theron Nye (ind.).
 1877—E. C. Burns (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), Theron Nye (ind.).
 1878—E. C. Burns (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), Theron Nye (ind.).
 1879—E. C. Burns (rep.), M. H. Hinman (dem.), F. M. Tillman (dem.).
 1880—Milton May (rep.), M. H. Hinman (dem.), E. C. Burns (rep.).
 1881—E. C. Burns (rep.), H. J. Lee (rep.), Milton May (rep.).
 1882—Milton May (rep.), H. J. Lee (rep.), J. H. Caldwell (dem.).
 1883—Milton May (rep.), J. H. Caldwell (dem.), H. J. Lee (rep.).
 1884—J. H. Caldwell (dem.), M. Weich (dem.).
 1885—M. Weich (dem.), Milton May (rep.), J. H. Caldwell (dem.).
 1886—J. H. Caldwell (dem.), George C. Laird (dem.), M. Weich (dem.).

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

During 1886, by popular vote, the "Township Organization" was adopted in Dodge County, the same taking effect soon after the annual election; those who comprised the board until January 1, 1887, and the first and succeeding county supervisors have been as follows:

1886—M. Weich (dem.), John F. Dierks (dem.), William E. Lee (ind.), A. C. Jensen (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), H. G. Wolcott (rep.), James S. Jennings (dem.), H. H. Robinson (dem.), J. B. Foote (rep.), John Emanuel (dem.), J. A. Sill (rep.), B. F. Laird (dem.), H. Christy (dem.), Nels Johnson (rep.).

1887—B. F. Laird (dem.), J. H. Graham (rep.), John F. Dierks, chairman (dem.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), A. C. Jensen (rep.), William E. Lee (ind.), H. Christy (dem.), M. Weich (dem.), Peter Thernes (dem.), James S. Jennings (dem.), John Emanuel (dem.), H. A. Milliken (rep.), J. B. Foote (rep.), J. A. Sill, Charles High (ind.), H. H. Robinson (dem.), H. G. Wolcott (rep.), Evan Thomas, A. R. Hasson (rep.).

1888—H. G. Wolcott, chairman (rep.), H. Christy (dem.), W. H. Mead (rep.), Emil Eichblatt (dem.), W. D. Thomas (dem.), J. B. Foote (rep.), H. A. Milliken (rep.), W. I. Wady (rep.), John Emanuel (dem.), R. B. Schneider (rep.), M. Weich (dem.), Evan Thomas, J. B. Imsicke (dem.), F. M. Tillman (rep.), S. M. Nelson, J. G. McVicker (ind.), Ed Watkins (rep.), Herman Wolsleger (dem.), A. P. Nelson.

1889—R. B. Schneider, chairman (rep.), Emil Eichblatt (dem.), E. G. Brugh (rep.), John Emanuel (dem.), J. B. Foote (rep.), W. H. Mead (rep.), Herman Monnich (dem.), J. G. McVicker (ind.), Sven M. Nelson, Herman Suhr (dem.), William D. Thomas (dem.), L. A. Warner (ind.), Ed Watkins (rep.), D. C. Westfall (ind.), B. W. Reynolds (rep.), A. P. Shephard (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), M. Weich (dem.), Herman Wolsleger (dem.).

1890—W. D. Thomas, chairman (dem.), H. P. Beebe, (rep.), E. G. Brugh (rep.), —— Kluth (dem.), W. H. Mead (rep.), J. G. McVicker (ind.), A. P. Shephard (rep.), F. M. Tillman (dem.), M. Weich (dem.), Herman Wolsleger (dem.), H. Christy (dem.), Ernst Eichblatt (dem.), Hugh Foy (dem.), Charles High (ind.), Herman Monnich (dem.), A. Crawford (dem.), R. B. Schneider (rep.), Theodore Uehling (dem.), L. A. Warner (ind.).

1891—W. D. Thomas, chairman (dem.), H. P. Beebe (rep.), W. H. Mead (rep.), Herman Monnich (dem.), J. A. Sill (rep.), Theodore Uehling (dem.), Anton Bartosh (dem.), Charles Balduff (dem.), C. M. Black (ind.), D. Rastede (dem.), Herman Rexin (ind.), H. Wolsleger (dem.), M. Weich (dem.), W. T. Crook (rep.), C. E. Christ (ind.), F. I. Ellick (dem.), Hugh Foy (dem.), Charles High (ind.), J. M. Kreader (rep.), M. C. Mitchell (rep.).

1892—J. A. Sill, chairman (rep.), C. M. Black (ind.), Oscar A. Bergquist (ind.), Anton Bartosh (dem.), J. A. Elliott (rep.), Eugene C. Christ (ind.), Peter Emanuel (dem.), Henry K. Goff (rep.), John M. Kreader (rep.), Jegen Larson, W. H. Mead (rep.), M. C. Mitchell (rep.), D. Rastede (dem.), John Tym (ind.), Herman Rexin (ind.), Herman Wolsleger (dem.), S. S. Van Horn (dem.).

1893—Messrs. Sill, Bartosh, Bergquist, Black, Gayton, Elliott, Emanuel, Goff, Kreader, Larson, Mitchell, Rastede, Rexin, Tym, Van Horn and Wolsleger.

1894—Messrs. Briggs, Bergquist, Chapman, C. W. Dodge, S. Gayton, Goff, Hastings, E. W. Hooker, Howe, J. Larson, W. H. Mead, D. Rastede, Charles Sievers, Mr. Thernes, Townsend, Van Horn and J. A. Elliott.

1895—Messrs. Balduff, Basler, Bergquist, Dodge, Hastings, Hindmarsh, Hooker, Howe, Larson, Rexin, Reynolds, Shultz, Siever, Townsend, Van Horn, Williams.

1896—T. R. Acom, W. F. Basler, A. J. Hastings, E. W. Hooker, W. H. Mead, Charles Sievers, B. W. Reynolds.

1897—T. R. Acom, W. F. Basler, E. W. Hooker, W. H. Mead, Wormwood, Sievers and Reynolds.

1898—E. W. Hooker, W. H. Mead, C. M. Wormwood, S. W. Boyd, G. W. Wolcott, John Romberg and John Tym.

1899—W. H. Mead, C. W. Wormwood, Andrew Linn, Joseph Roberts, John Tym, John Romberg, S. W. Boyd.

1900—Peter Parkert, John Tym, S. W. Boyd, W. H. Mead, Joseph Roberts, C. M. Wormwood, Andrew Linn.

1901—S. W. Boyd, John Tym, Peter Parkert, W. H. Mead, Nels Martensen, Joseph Roberts.

1902—Peter Parkert, William A. Graham, S. W. Boyd, J. Roberts, C. W. Hepburn, Nels Martensen.

1903—Nels Martensen, C. W. Hepburn, C. B. Noyes, W. H. Mead, W. A. Graham.

1904—Nels Martensen, S. W. Boyd, C. W. Hepburn, P. J. Flanigan, W. H. Mead, C. B. Noyes and W. A. Graham.

1905—S. W. Boyd, A. P. Shephard, C. B. Noyes, J. Larson, P. J. Flanigan, Luke Mundy, W. A. Graham.

1906—Al E. Evans, P. J. Flanigan, Ralph Main, M. J. O'Hara, J. Larson.

1907—A. E. Evans, R. Main, M. J. O'Hara, P. J. Flanigan, J. Larson, Ole E. Olsen, A. J. Forman.

1908—J. Larson, P. J. Flanigan, M. J. O'Hara, Z. T. Rector, Ole Olsen, A. W. Murphy, A. J. Forman.

1909—P. J. Flanigan, A. J. Forman, J. Larson, A. W. Murphy, M. J. O'Hara, O. E. Olsen, Z. T. Rector.
 1910—Messrs. Forman, Larson, Murphy, O'Hara, Rector, Olsen.
 1911—Messrs. Forman, Flanigan, Olsen, Rector, O'Hara, Murphy, W. H. Mead and J. Larson.
 1912—W. H. Mead, Joseph Roberts, J. Larson, P. J. Flanigan, M. J. O'Hara, Z. T. Rector.
 1913—Messrs. Murphy, Roberts, Peter Parkert, Z. T. Rector, J. Larson and O'Hara.
 1914—Messrs. Roberts, D. Livingston, P. J. Flanigan, Parker, Rector and J. H. Forney.
 1915—Flanigan, J. H. Forney, Murphy, Roberts, Parkert, D. Livingston and Z. T. Rector.
 1916—Murphy, Maurice Nelson, Parkert, Oscar Widman, Forman, Flanigan and Z. T. Rector.
 1917—Flanigan, Scott, A. W. Murphy, Maurice Nelson, Parkert, Forney and Widman.
 1918—A. W. Murphy, Flanigan, Widman, Parkert, M. Nelson, Forney, Scott.
 1919—Messrs. Widman, Nelson, A. W. Murphy, Flanigan, Forney, Scott, M. A. Uehling.
 1920—A. W. Murphy, chairman. M. A. Uehling, P. J. Flanigan, Oscar Widman, Maurice Nelson, F. J. Stecher.

PARTY VOTE BY DECADES

The following shows the party vote by ten year periods, beginning with 1868:

Precinct	Republican	Democrat
1868—Fremont	202	93
Maple	46	12
North Bend	53	14
Logan Creek	42	48

1878—Total vote of Dodge County: republican, 726; democrat, 558; independent, 24; prohibitionist, 3.

Precinct	Republican	Democrat	Prohibition
1888—Pebble	35	145	3
Elkhorn	46	45	4
Ridgeley	39	121	4
Union	67	79	10
Everett	55	108	2
Platte	111	59	7
Cotterell	118	79	2
Pleasant Valley	61	84	2
Webster	58	193	3
Logan	77	67	8
Maple	79	91	13
Nickerson	92	62	13
Hooper	118	156	25
North Bend	99	76	33
Cuming	75	225	7
Fremont	717	641	42
Total	1,853	2,231	178

In 1898 the fusionists carried this county in the state election.

In 1900 William McKinley, presidential candidate, carried Dodge County by a handsome majority.

In 1904 Theodore Roosevelt carried the county (republican).

In 1908 William J. Bryan carried the county (democratic).

In 1912 Woodrow Wilson carried the county (democratic).

PUBLIC MEN OF COUNTY

Among the men of business ability who have been connected with politics in Nebraska and the Union may be named the following which is doubtless only a partial list of strong political characters from Fremont and Dodge County; United States Congressmen, Samuel Maxwell, Dan V. Stephens, G. W. E. Dorsey, who was also nominee for governor in Nebraska; United States District Judge Munger; R. B. Schneider, member of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee; L. D. Richards, nominee for governor of Nebraska; Ross L. Hammond, nominee for congressman; District Judge C. C. Holenbeck; E. M. Eaton, state commissioner of lands and buildings; state senators and representatives, B. W. Reynolds, Dan Swanson, G. L. Loomis, Joe Roberts, John E. Shervin.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS FOR 1919-1920

The following were the township officials within the various townships in Dodge County in 1919-1920:

UNION TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Solomon Ruff, North Bend, R. F. D. No. 3.

Treasurer—C. B. Stark, North Bend, R. F. D. No. 2.

Assessor—

Justice of the Peace—John Quigley, North Bend, R. F. D., No. 2.

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Joe Sturbaum, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 1.

Assessor—Peter Emanuel, Sr., North Bend, R. F. D. No. 3.

Treasurer—Joseph Minarick, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 1.

Justice of the Peace—William Rittig, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 5.

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Henry Parr, Dodge.

Treasurer—Tom Vogeltanc, Dodge.

Assessor—C. W. Hepburn, Dodge.

Justice of the Peace—J. J. Hrabak, Dodge.

Constable—Joseph Roubinek, Dodge.

COTTERELL TOWNSHIP

Clerk—George Jorgensen, Ames, R. F. D. No. 1.

Treasurer—William Hull, North Bend, R. F. D. No. 1.

Assessor—Fred Howe, North Bend, R. F. D. No. 1.

Justice of the Peace—P. H. Westphalen, North Bend, R. F. D. No. 1.

RIDGELEY TOWNSHIP

Clerk—B. G. Heywood, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Treasurer—A. C. Rexin, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Assessor—Jacob Ries, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 3.
 Justice of the Peace—Chris Stuehmer, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 3.

PEBBLE TOWNSHIP

Clerk—William J. Wolsleger, Snyder.
 Treasurer—Claudi Wendorf, Snyder.
 Assessor—Carl Hollander, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 2.
 Justice of the Peace—Henry Oberman, Snyder.
 Constable—Herman Seidel, Snyder.

PLATTE TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Emil Diederichs, Fremont, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Treasurer—Arthur Johnson, Ames.
 Assessor—A. O. Swartwood, Fremont.
 Justice of the Peace—Henry L. Beebe, Fremont.

MAPLE TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Robert H. C. O'Brien, Ames, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Assessor—Ira Parsons, Fremont, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Treasurer—Walter H. Olson, Ames.
 Justice of the Peace—W. D. Holbrook, Ames.

EVERETT TOWNSHIP

Clerk—J. H. Windhausen, Hooper, R. F. D. No. 2.
 Treasurer—Peter Parkert, Jr., Hooper, R. F. D. No. 2.
 Assessor—John W. Dahl, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 3.
 Justice of the Peace—Gerhard Hiilgen, Scribner, R. F. D. No. 3.

CUMING TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Fred Osterloh, Scribner.
 Treasurer—Henry Edelmaier, Scribner.
 Assessor—Otto W. Grose, Scribner.
 Justice of the Peace—Henry Hiebenthal, Scribner.

NICKERSON TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Edward Langhorst, Nickerson.
 Treasurer, Anton Nelson, Fremont, R. F. D. No. 1.
 Assessor—
 Justice of the Peace—David Herman, Nickerson.

HOOPER TOWNSHIP

Clerk—Harry J. Schwab, Hooper.
 Treasurer—William Frock, Hooper.
 Assessor—William F. Basler, Hooper.
 Justice of the Peace—Chris Royer, Jr., Hooper.
 Constable—Fred Schroeder, Hooper.

LOGAN TOWNSHIP

Clerk—H. J. Nelson, Hooper, R. F. D. No. 3.

Treasurer—Frank T. Uehling.

Assessor—Oliver O. Larson, Uehling.

Justice of the Peace—Emil Christensen, Hooper, R. F. D. No. 4.

ELKHORN TOWNSHIP

Clerk—James Sutton, Fremont.

Treasurer—

Assessor—J. C. Jensen, Fremont.

Justice of the Peace—

NORTH BEND TOWNSHIP

Assessor—James M. Easom, North Bend.

Justice of the Peace—J. T. Moolick, North Bend.

Constable—Russell Anderson, North Bend.

FREMONT TOWNSHIP

Justice of the Peace—W. M. Stone, Fremont.

Justice of the Peace—Henry M. Kidder, Fremont.

Constable—George F. Basler, Fremont.

Police Judge—A. K. Dame, Fremont.

CHAPTER XVI

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY'S ESTIMATE OF FREE SCHOOLS—SCHOOLS OF FREMONT—THE PRESENT CITY SCHOOLS—NORTH BEND SCHOOLS—SCRIBNER SCHOOLS—HOOPER SCHOOLS—OTHER FIRST SCHOOLS—DODGE—SNYDER—CROWELL—NICKERSON—COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT—BUILDINGS—PUPILS—EXPENSES—OTHER SCHOOL STATISTICS—GRADED SCHOOLS IN COUNTY—PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS—TEACHERS' WAGES NOW—VALUATION AND TAX LEVY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN 1920—FREMONT NORMAL SCHOOL AND BUSINESS INSTITUTE—FREMONT BUSINESS COLLEGE—MIDLAND COLLEGE.

The late William McKinley, many years ago, said this concerning the free school system of the United States:

"An open schoolhouse, free to all, evidences the highest type of advanced civilization. It is the gateway to progress, prosperity, and honor, and the best security for the liberties and independence of the people. It is the strongest rock of the foundation, the most enduring stone of the temple of liberty, our surest stay in every storm, our present safety, our future hope, aye, the very citadel of our influence and power. It is better than garrisons and guns, than forts and fleets. An educated people, governed by true moral principle, can never take a backward step, nor be dispossessed of their citizenship and liberties.

"Permanently engrafted upon the policy and legislation of the state, it is free to all; to it all are invited to come and are welcome, without money and without price. It is supported by the boundless generosity of the people of the state, open to the children of the humblest citizen or exile sojourner within our gates, as freely and ungrudgingly as to the native born of the children of the most opulent. Within its jurisdiction all distinctions, social, political, and religious, are banished; all differences hushed, all barriers removed. It recognizes neither party nor church, creed, condition, nor station, but free as the air we breathe, its bounties and benefits fall in equal measure upon all."

SCHOOLS OF FREMONT

An intelligent, thinking people always aim to give their children the best possible educational advantages, hence one looks and finds the standard of public schools in the City of Fremont very high. From the earliest days when Miss Charity Colson opened and maintained her private school on through the first public school periods, up to the end of more than three score years, Fremont's educational ideal, its theory and practice, have ever demanded and secured the best.

Father Isaac E. Heaton came in 1856, expecting to be a teacher here; he was a highly cultured scholar, ever leading to better educational ground.

It is certain that the first school was taught by Miss Charity Colson in 1858. It was a private school kept in a frame building that had been

erected by two young men, and in which "bachelor hall" was kept for some time. It stood on Eighth Street near "D." The first public school was taught in this building, in the summer of 1859, by Miss Helen McNeill, of Elkhorn City.

Without any attempt to give even a partial list of teachers, in passing it may be said that among early and later teachers are recalled the names of the Misses McNeill, Rogers, Van Anda, McCarn, Goff, Miss Mary Heaton (afterwards so prominent as Mrs. J. J. Hawthorne), the Misses Emma Ely, Evalyn Clark, the Misses Griswold, Emma Gillette, Ollie Carmon, Lizzie and Marie Haas, Mrs. Blakesley, and Miss Spicard. Also superintendents — Clarendon, Hornberger, Miller, Laird and Gardner.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT, 1899
CENTRAL OR OLD HIGH SCHOOL, 1870

The first regularly built public schoolhouse in Fremont was opposite where the Episcopal Church now stands, on Fifth Street. It was a long, two room, one story building. This served the town, with no additional buildings until 1870, when the "Central School Building" was provided. This stood on the west side of the park, next north from the Methodist Episcopal Church of today, and was condemned and torn down a number of years ago, and the present magnificent high school structure was erected.

In 1877 a \$1,500 two story frame building was erected south of the railroad, and in 1892 it was removed to Englewood Addition.

In 1879 a two story four-room brick building was erected on Clarkson Avenue, between Third and Fourth streets. This cost \$7,000. In 1888 an addition was made. This building has recently been remodeled and repainted so that it does not show its age and is in first-class condition.

In 1882 a four room brick schoolhouse was erected an "K" Street between Fifth and Sixth streets. This was known as the West Ward School. In 1887 two rooms were added to this building.

The "North School" was erected in 1883. It was a two story, four-room structure, on Union Street, between Tenth and Eleventh. In

1888 a one story frame schoolhouse was erected at a cost of \$900. This was north of the tracks and was used for small scholars.

Concerning the old high school building—the one used until the present one was finished—a writer on the schools in 1892 remarked: "The High School building—the pride of the city and the finest in the State—was erected in 1889, at a cost of \$23,000. It is a magnificent two story brick structure, located on a half block of land, between Main and "D" streets on Eighth. It is modern in all of its designs. The building is divided into nine rooms, exclusive of ample cloak and closet rooms. The building is heated by furnaces, well arranged in every particular."

In 1889 the city also built a two story, six-room building on the south side of the tracks, on Jensen Street.



HIGH SCHOOL, FREMONT

In the spring of 1892 the city voted bonds to the amount of \$18,000, for the purpose of building two nine thousand dollar buildings—one for the northeast part of the place and one for the Nye-Hawthorne Addition.

Very early in the history of schools in Fremont, the women were allowed to hold office on the school board and through this many improvements were made in school affairs. Mrs. M. E. Reynolds' records as secretary in 1892, disclose these facts: At that date there were in Fremont six brick and two frame buildings used for school purposes; the total value of these was \$88,000. Total enrollment, 1,700 scholars. Thirty-four teachers—all ladies but two. The district then had a debt of \$50,000.

The average cost per pupil for the school year was \$17.35. The superintendent received a salary of \$1,500 and female teachers received \$49 per month.

Free text books were first used here in 1891. The Board of Education serving in 1892, when the above figures were compiled, was as follows: J. W. Harris, president; Thomas Carroll, vice president; Mrs. M. E. Reynolds, secretary; Mrs. C. M. Nye, Fred L. Nesbit, G. L. Loomis.

The board at present—1920—is as follows: S. S. Sidner, president;

D. D. Rowe, vice president; J. A. Donahue, secretary; C. H. Christensen, Elizabeth Forster and Mrs. Catherine Marshall.

THE PRESENT CITY SCHOOLS

The present city schools in Fremont are as follows: High School, Central School, East School, Inglewood School, North School, Nye-Hawthorne School, Observation School, Sheldon School, West School, West Side School.

Other Fremont educational institutions are: Midland College, St. Patrick's School (Catholic), Trinity Parochial School (Lutheran).

PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

Fremont's present high school building was completed, ready for use, in 1915, and its total cost was approximately \$175,000. The original contractor after having gone part way with his building operations, decided that on account of increase in wages and material that he better quit without completing his job and did so after which others completed the building. It stands out prominently as one of Nebraska's best, most thoroughly modern and expensive structures for high school purposes in the commonwealth.

NORTH BEND SCHOOLS

The first public school in North Bend was taught in the spring of 1860. It was taught on the west side of the Robert Miller farm, in a frame building 12 by 18 feet. It was opened with only nine pupils, and Miss Mary Heaton was the first teacher. Her salary was one dollar and a quarter per week and her board "thrown in." She was a very competent teacher, and today she would have been paid at least twenty times as much. Later, this teacher became the wife of J. J. Hawthorne.

A log building was built a mile or so west of the above mentioned building and this served from 1863 to 1866, when a frame house was provided on the village plat. This served until the "West School" was erected in 1881. It was a two story, four-room department frame house, costing \$4,000.

In 1885 a two story brick schoolhouse was erected at a cost of \$9,000.

In 1892 the total value of all schoolhouses in North Bend was \$13,000. The enrollment was then 310. For present condition of schools see last annual report of the county superintendent in this chapter.

SCRIBNER SCHOOLS

County Superintendent Henry Wolcott organized the Scribner schools March 9, 1876. A building site was bought in October for which \$150 was paid. Prior to that the few children had to attend school at Pebble, more than a mile to the southwest. The earliest schoolhouse at Scribner was a frame house 26 by 40 feet, to which an addition was made in 1880. In 1885 it was necessary to make more room and a fine brick building was provided at a cost of \$7,330. This was the two story, four-room building. The present two story school building cost \$30,000.

On account of the terrible scourge of diphtheria in the autumn of 1887, the Scribner schools were closed more than a month and also

several months during the winter of 1887-88. Fourteen pupils died during that scourge. With the passing years these schools have kept apace with the standards of Dodge County and the state at large. Today one finds modern buildings and able instructors—see County Superintendent's latest report in this chapter.

Among the early teachers in Scribner were these: Mrs. E. B. Barrett, Nettie V. Clark, Sadie Neff, N. F. Livingston, Charles Wine, Mrs. A. C. Mulloy, John S. Reynolds, Katie Rochford, Emma Hicks, Hattie Hazen, A. B. Smith, G. W. Whitehorn, A. Berry, Bell Parker, Carrie Rexine, T. B. Kepplinger, W. K. Fowler, Jr., C. G. Ellwanger, L. Finnimore, Sadie Showers, F. A. Hye, Mrs. Nellie Royce, Ella Cooper, Effie M. Christie, Sadie Ryan, and Emma Wainwright.

HOOPER SCHOOLS

The first scholars living in the Village of Hooper had to walk to a schoolhouse west of town until that building was moved to the village plat. In 1881 a brick building was erected, costing \$5,000; it was 30 by 35 feet. Four years later it was necessary to make an addition to it, costing \$4,000. It made a fine looking building and overlooked the beautiful valley and village.

In 1892 a second addition to the high school building was made, costing \$2,975. For present school facilities see County Superintendent's 1920 report.

OTHER FIRST SCHOOLS

At the village of Nickerson the children were sent to a district school one mile to the west of the place until 1883, but that year a schoolhouse was built on the plat. This building cost \$1,100. The first to teach in this village building was Miss Emily Davis, of Fremont.

At Crowell, a school building was moved into town from the country in 1886. It was erected originally in 1873 in section 2. The place now has good schools and buildings.

In Pleasant Valley Township the first schoolhouse was a sod shanty made in the spring of 1870. It was covered with slough grass and stood in section 33. In it was taught the pioneer term of public school by Miss L. A. Miller. In 1871 a frame house was built in section 25 where Miss Anna Abbott, daughter of Dr. L. J. Abbott, of Fremont, was the teacher.

See County Superintendent's annual report of schools for 1920 in this chapter.

In Ridgeley Township the first school district was formed in 1871 and it covered the entire township's territory. Only twelve pupils could be found living within the township—but all was legal in those early times. A school was taught in 1870 at Fred Fuller's house, with Mary Weber as teacher. A frame building was erected that year (1871) in section 26, costing \$600. Later it was removed to section 21. It is always known as the "Little Red Schoolhouse," although later it was painted another color. Mrs. E. A. McConnell was the first to teach in this building.

In Union Township the first school was taught in 1860, on the east line of the township, an account of which has been given in the North Bend schools. With the growth of the township and county the schools here

have kept pace with others and are today fully abreast of the others in Dodge County—see last report of county superintendent.

In Webster Township the first school was taught in a sod hovel belonging to Andrew Derick, in section 26. In 1872 the first schoolhouse was built and the first to teach therein was D. C. Westfall. There are now nine schools in the township.

In the Village of Dodge, at first the people sent their children into the rural district to attend school a half mile off of the plat, but the following season a building was erected in the village and ever since the place has had good schools, well taught and well attended. As early as 1891 there were 200 pupils enrolled there.

In Cuming Township the pioneer school was taught by Mrs. Mary E. Parks, in her own house, in 1871. The first school building was erected in 1873 in section 28, where Mrs. Augusta Boor taught first.

Mary Weber taught the first school in Everett Township in 1868, in section 34.

In Maple Township the first school was taught by L. M. Keene, in section 10, in a "dug-out," in 1869. A schoolhouse was built in 1871 in the center of section 14 at a cost of \$345.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT—1919

The following report made July 1, 1919, for the schools in Dodge County contained among numerous items these: District number, number and kind of schoolhouses, enrollment in districts and total in county, number of male and female teachers in county by districts and other general information given in totals for the entire County of Dodge.

Dist. No.	Kind of Buildings	Enroll- ment	Teachers	
			Male	Female
1	Seven brick	2,255	5	63
2	One frame	54	..	2
3	One frame	32	..	1
4	One frame	58	..	3
5	One frame	22	..	1
6	One frame	13	..	1
7	One frame	21	..	1
8	One brick	318	1	12
9	One frame	22	..	1
10	One frame	36	..	1
11	One frame	25	..	1
12	One frame	41	..	2
13	One frame	26	..	1
14	One frame	11	..	1
15	One frame	19	..	1
16	One frame	33	..	1
17	One frame	28	..	1
18	One frame	22	..	1
19	One brick	77	..	3
20	One frame	16	..	1
21	One frame	21	..	1
22	One frame	62	..	2
23	One frame	28	..	2
24	One frame	19	..	1
25	One frame	15	..	1
26	One brick	274	3	11

Dist. No.	Kind of Buildings	Enroll- ment	Teachers Male	Teachers Female
27	One frame	31	1	1
28	One frame	25	..	1
29	One frame	28	..	1
30	One frame	30	..	1
31	One frame	9	..	1
32	One frame	11	..	1
33	One frame	36	..	1
34	One frame	32	..	1
35	One frame	37	..	1
36	One frame	26	..	1
37	One frame	17	..	1
38	One frame	36	..	1
39	One brick	103	..	4
40		34	..	1
41	One frame	11	..	1
42	One frame	25	..	1
43	One frame	9	..	1
44	One frame	24	..	1
45	One frame	27	..	1
46	One brick	138	1	7
47	One frame	26	..	1
48	One frame	25	..	1
49	One frame	115	..	4
50	One frame	14	..	1
51	One frame	34	..	1
52	One frame	23	..	1
53	One frame	31	..	1
54	One frame	23	..	1
55	One frame	20	..	1
56	One frame	26	..	1
57	One frame	18	..	1
58	One frame	12	..	1
59	One frame	29	..	1
60	One frame	34	..	1
61	One frame	28	..	1
62	One brick	222	1	8
63	One frame	22	..	1
64	One frame	29	..	1
65	One frame	25	..	1
66	One frame	19	..	1
67	One frame	23	..	1
68	One frame	23	..	1
69	One frame	17	..	1
70	One frame	27	1	1
72	One frame	23	..	1
73	One frame	19	..	1
74	One frame	9	..	1
75	One frame	8	..	1
76	One frame	12	..	1
77	One frame	11	..	1
78	One frame	17	..	1
79	One frame	34	..	1
80	One frame	17	..	1

Dist. No.	Kind of Buildings	Enroll- ment	Teachers Male	Teachers Female
81	One frame	18	..	1
82	One frame	15	..	1
83	One frame	33	..	1
84	One frame	28	..	1
85	One frame	24	..	1
Totals		7,350	13	194

The total number of males enrolled in county is 3,675; number females, 3,635. The total number of schoolhouses in county is ninety-three. Average wages paid males is \$132.89; paid females, \$69.85. Total amount expended for all school purposes for last year was \$267,882. Paid for books and charts, etc., \$14,944; for furniture, \$1,148. Value of all schoolhouses in county, \$653,970; for all text-books, \$24,520. Value of all charts, maps, etc., \$16,862. Total indebtedness of county for school purposes, \$177,679; outstanding bonds, \$176,700.

THE GRADED SCHOOLS OF DODGE COUNTY

District No. 1—Fremont has twelve grades, sixty-seven teachers, total enrollment, 1,128; graduates last year (1919), fifteen boys and forty-five girls.

District No. 2—Ames, ten grades, two teachers, twenty-nine enrolled; graduated, three boys and five girls.

District No. 4—Eight grades, two teachers.

District No. 8—North Bend, twelve grades, thirteen teachers, enrolled, 223; five boys and eleven girls graduated.

District No. 19—Nickerson, ten grades, three teachers; four boys and five girls graduated.

District No. 22—Ten grades, two teachers; three boys and three girls graduated.

District No. 23—Ten grades, two teachers.

District No. 26—Hooper, twelve grades, four teachers, 193 in grades. Number of graduates, five boys and twelve girls.

District No. 39—Snyder, twelve grades, nine teachers, 104 in grades; graduates, three boys and five girls.

District No. 46—Dodge, twelve grades, five teachers; three boys and five girls graduated.

District No. 49—Uehling, twelve grades, five teachers, 101 in grades; two boys and three girls graduated.

District No. 62—Scribner, twelve grades, nine teachers, 164 in grades; six boys and eleven girls graduated.

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Besides the common public schools in the county there are the following schools:

The Midland College, Fremont (Lutheran).

The St. Patrick's parochial (Catholic), Fremont.

The German Lutheran (parochial), Fremont.

The St. Venceslaus (Catholic), Dodge.

The St. Leo's, Snyder.

The Lutheran parochial, Hooper.

The Lutheran at Winslow.

The Lutheran at Scribner.

The second one at Scribner of the Lutheran faith.

The Lutheran at Snyder.

1920 WAGES FOR TEACHERS

Word was given out in the month of August, 1920, that teachers' wages in Dodge County had been raised as follows: The average for the coming school year is fixed at a little more than \$110 per month. One man teacher is to receive \$135 per month, and one woman will receive \$130 per month. The lowest wages will be paid to two women, who are to receive \$80 per month.

VALUATION AND TAX LEVY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The 1919 assessed valuation and tax levy in the various school districts in Dodge County was as follows:

Dist. No.	Assessed Value	Levy Mills	Dist. No.	Assessed Value	Levy Mills
1	\$2,309,026	43	37	\$ 67,830	14
2	118,967	27	38	95,952	13
3	65,071	20	39	210,497	30
4	205,683	15	40	89,438	8
5	68,452	18	41	110,112	8
6	79,321	8	42	101,251	10
7	75,383	13	43	85,243	10
8	378,817	42	44	58,284	21
9	170,948	4	45	98,104	10
10	86,889	20	46	276,789	35
11	180,704	6	47	107,775	8
12	99,281	28	48	68,883	14
13	49,963	20	49	146,748	35
14	104,634	6	50	45,227	16
15	132,952	6	51	58,453	14
16	120,775	30	52	74,865	18
17	82,029	13	53	142,805	15
18	100,009	10	54	74,079	13
19	141,623	34	55	58,114	15
20	87,330	10	56	75,647	16
21	61,968	14	57	68,619	14
22	110,162	20	58	55,816	18
23	96,163	16	59	107,335	6
24	66,606	26	60	91,832	13
25	122,842	10	61	56,993	12
26	262,983	55	62	307,966	35
27	130,333	16	63	140,749	6
28	77,695	14	64	87,930	18
29	75,872	14	65	121,717	10
30	87,733	12	66	98,366	14
31	53,989	14	67	72,463	16
32	70,979	12	68	68,900	14
33	50,614	20	69	89,719	16
34	73,370	14	70	49,190	31
35	106,043	12	71 (and 27)		
36	45,880	35	72	81,454	13

Dist. No.	Assessed Value	Levy Mills	Dist. No.	Assessed Value	Levy Mills
73	\$ 112,636	12	82	\$ 79,013	14
74	53,819	16	83	59,671	13
75	73,549	10	84	111,009	8
76	59,690	16	85	82,216	20
77	51,871	17	Fract. 1	16,221	23
78	67,664	16	Fract. 2	11,340	28
79	45,440	27	Burt 49	3,875	16
80	53,646	22	Colfax 29	2,230	10
81	65,332	14	Washington 24.	275	54

THE FREMONT BUSINESS COLLEGE

At the corner of Sixth and Main streets, Fremont, June 3, 1889, there was established by Prof. T. R. Hamlin a business college which grew to be one of much note. The first year the enrollment reached 225 pupils. The second year it reached 500. One special feature of this institution was that pupils were given Greek, Latin and French and the common branches for the price of one scholarship. Many a young man and woman were here taught commercial law, shorthand, telegraphy, elocution, penmanship, bookkeeping and a general practical business education.

After a number of years, with changes in the affairs of educational matters, and the establishment of other schools throughout the state, this institution gave way and ceased to exist as one of the institutions of Fremont, many preferring the course given at Professor Clemons' Normal School, noted in this chapter.

FREMONT NORMAL SCHOOL AND BUSINESS INSTITUTE

This high educational institution in Fremont, which occupied the buildings and present site of the Midland College, was established in 1884 by Prof. W. P. Jones, who founded the school and superintended the construction of the original buildings. He conducted the school about three years, when he was overtaken by death, after which his widow ran the school another year and in 1888 Prof. William H. Clemons, that most excellent and gifted educator, succeeded to the management and full control of the institution. He greatly enlarged the buildings, which became a three-story brick structure (as today) 80 by 132 feet, containing nine recitation rooms, with library and chapel. As far back as 1892 twelve instructors were employed. All the branches were taught, but especially the teachers' preparatory course became wonderfully popular. In the normal course the study was in preparatory course, teachers' course, scientific course, classic course, commercial course, music, typewriting, stenography and law.

The campus, situated in the northeast part of the city, is indeed an ideal spot and as the years have come and gone has been greatly improved and beautified by trees now well grown, and with ample room the land owned by the Midland College today is among the finest places in all Nebraska for such an institution as was the "Fremont Normal," and which has been transformed into the Midland College, since the death of Professor Clemons in 1918.

It should be recorded as an historical fact that the Fremont Normal was conducted under a local corporation composed of the best business

factors in and around Fremont. The directors were in 1891-2 and for years later: E. H. Barnard, president; C. Christensen, vice-president; Manly Rogers, treasurer; F. Hammond, secretary; John Hauser, L. M. Keene, J. C. Lee, E. F. Gray, John Knetchel, L. D. Richards, A. Truesdell, George R. Loomis.

During the year 1890, 800 students attended this school. The founding and fostering this institution in Fremont by her own citizens was but the part of true foresight and great wisdom.

THE MIDLAND COLLEGE

The buildings and grounds of the old Normal School and Business College at Fremont, mentioned above, were sold to the Midland College of Atchison, Kansas, a Lutheran institution, founded in 1887, the date of purchasing the Fremont College being September 10, 1919. For many years there had been a feeling that the Kansas institution should have been located nearer the center of the Luthran population—somewhere in the State of Nebraska in place of in Kansas. After the death of President William H. Clemons of the Fremont College there was a chance to secure a fine college property, which the authorities of the Lutheran Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America investigated thoroughly and finally decided to purchase and change the seat of their college from Atchison, Kansas, to Fremont, Nebraska.

This college is under the control of a board of trustees composed of twenty-nine men: part are chosen from the city where the institution is located, and the remainder from the district synods of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and the Alumni Association. The president of the college is ex-officio advisory member. While this college is under the direction of a church denomination, it is in no particular narrow or sectarian. She has among her students those of various denominations from all parts of the United States.

The Western Theological Seminary was established in 1895. At first it was a separate institution, but now a part of the college, under the direction of the president of the college and board of trustees, and a separate faculty.

The following paragraph is a statement made by the board in its first year-book or bulletin after removing from Atchison to Fremont:

"The buildings and grounds of Midland College are valued at \$225,000. A campaign for \$500,000 for endowment and new buildings is now being carried on and (at this writing) more than half of the amount has already been secured. The new building program contemplates an administration building, girls' dormitory, boys' dormitory, gymnasium, Carnegie library, and a Theological Seminary building. The institution is maintained by a liberal annual subsidy from the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church of America, interests from endowment, student's fees, and direct gifts from friends of Christian education."

The story of the change from Atchison to Fremont is best told in an article in the Fremont Tribune in September, 1919, when the college was first opened in Fremont. This is an extract from President E. E. Stauffer's article:

"About a year ago the attention of a number of churchmen was called to Fremont, Nebraska, where the Fremont Normal college, a school which had been successfully conducted for over thirty years and in which thousands of young men and women had been educated and pre-

pared for life service, could be obtained at a very reasonable price. This school was situated in the very heart of the best part of Nebraska, surrounded by a constituency which would support the college not only by sending their young people, but also by generous financial aid. After much negotiation on the part of the Commercial club of Fremont and the two Lutheran synods of Nebraska, the board of trustees of Midland college was induced to pass a resolution to move Midland from Atchison to Fremont, and to purchase the Fremont Normal college, this however upon the agreement that Fremont should give \$75,000 and that the two Nebraska synods should raise at least \$300,000 in addition. It was readily proven that this amount could be raised and by July 15, 1919, in just a little less than four weeks, a sum amounting to \$250,000 had been subscribed and the campaign was inaugurated to secure \$500,000 in addition to the liberal contribution of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Luckey of Lincoln, Nebraska, for the endowment of Midland college. On the 29th day of July, 1919, the board of trustees, in a special meeting held in Atchison, Kansas, took the final action which led to the removal of Midland college from Atchison to Fremont."

THE FUTURE

Continuing his article Doctor Stauffer says: "The program which has been inaugurated for the further development of this institution is a big one and not at all impossible. Already forty acres of land has been purchased in addition to the nine and one-half acres already possessed upon which to build the larger Midland. The entire program which is now under way, is given in another article which appears in this issue. Everyone who knows the situation is fully agreed that a new day has dawned for Midland College and that the future is bound to see this institution one of the largest and the strongest of the schools in Nebraska and the Central West. The Church which established this institution in Fremont is to be congratulated on its far-seeing vision and the wonderful possibilities which will come through the wise administration of its educational affairs. While Midland college is under the auspices of the United Lutheran Church of America, which is composed of forty-five district synods all using the English language, with the exception of two and these two synods using one other language only in part, this is in no wise narrow or sectarian, for young people of all faiths are received and the greatest courtesy and fairness is manifested in every way. Those in charge are possessed with the conviction that the building of character is fundamental and that all good character must be founded upon the truths through the teachings of Jesus and that no education can be finally of use to the world that is not based upon Christian principles."

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The 1919-20 officers of the board of trustees are: Louis T. Bang, president, Emporia, Kansas; C. B. Harman, D.D., vice-president, Omaha, Nebraska; Rev. Paul Menenoeh, secretary, Eureka, Kansas; Henry C. Dahl, treasurer, Fremont, Nebraska.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Louis T. Bang, chairman, Emporia, Kansas; E. E. Stauffer, D.D., secretary, Fremont, Nebraska; Henry Diegel, Atchison, Kansas; B. D. Zimmerman, Atchison, Kansas; Henry Monke, Fontenelle, Nebraska.

Of the present faculty it may be said that Ezra Eugene Stauffer, D.D., is the president, and Wilber E. Tilberg, A. M., dean.

During the first year after this institution was removed to Fremont, in all departments, there were 697 students enrolled.

While it is not the province of the historian to speculate on the future, but simply record the past and present, it may not be saying too much for this college and its new home, to place it in high rank among the great educational institutions of the growing west, within another score of years, if not in less time.

HISTORY OF FREMONT COLLEGE—BY PROF. G. H. MOHLER

The extraordinary development of the north central portion of our country during the last third of a century has called into existence almost innumerable public schools. To instruct in these schools an army of teachers is necessary. To meet this condition, training schools have been established by public and private enterprise. It is the avowed purpose of these schools to be teachers of teachers, that is, to prepare persons, both in theory and practice, for the profession of teaching in the common and graded schools.

Such were the conditions which called into existence the Fremont Normal College and Business Institute, a short history of which follows:

In August, 1883, Prof. William P. Jones, of Chicago, having learned from the report of the state superintendent of public instruction of Nebraska that there was an unusual call for teachers in the common and graded schools of the state and that this call could not be met with properly trained and competent teachers, determined to found a school somewhere within the state, whose aim should be to train young people for the responsible position of teaching.

After much thought and inquiry regarding conditions and the consideration of the merits of various sections and cities, he decided to establish such a school in Fremont, provided sufficient encouragement should be shown by the citizens. Accordingly a mass meeting was called, the proposition thoroughly canvassed and a hearty co-operation of the citizens was assured. Subscription lists met with such liberal response that soon enough funds were available to meet the expense for the erection of a suitable building.

The first earth was excavated on May 18, 1884, and the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1884, according to the ritual of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The structure rapidly progressed to completion and the school met in its first session and for organization on the morning of October 21, 1884. The enrollment for the first day was thirty-six students, principally from the city. The attendance gradually increased until by the middle of the first year nearly 150 students were enrolled. There were at that time but four recitation rooms and the business practice room, other rooms in the building being utilized as living rooms and for dormitory purposes. The school moved along in steady progress until the death of Professor Jones on August 3, 1886. Upon the death of Professor Jones the management of the school devolved upon the widow, Mrs. Mary E. Jones, who conducted it with varying success until May 12, 1888, when the school entire was purchased by Prof. W. H. Clemmons. During its entire history, with the exception of a time immediately preceding the purchase by Professor Clemmons, the college has had a steady and healthy growth.

From an enrollment of thirty-six students, the yearly attendance reached from 800 to 1,200, depending upon the time of the year, being greatest during the summer and winter seasons.

At first there were but four regular recitation rooms, and the faculty consisted of only four members, but as the attendance increased other recitation rooms were provided and the faculty increased by the addition of new members as necessity dictated.

At first the name of the school was the Fremont Normal School and Business College. About the year 1900 the courses of study were increased, regular schedules were provided and degrees conferred upon graduates from the higher courses of study. At this time the name of the school was changed to Fremont College and Business Institute. The college, however, still maintained the preparatory departments, but laid particular stress upon the regular higher graduating courses.

The school continued to prosper in attendance and enthusiasm until about the period of the European war, when, in common with other educational institutions of the country, the student body was materially reduced. This together with the establishment of a number of other schools in the state had a very marked effect upon the attendance, although the college continued to maintain the regular courses of study and schedules of classes.

Since its founding, the college has suffered several severe misfortunes from fire. On October 14, 1907, practically the entire main building was destroyed by fire. The fire started at the highest point upon the roof at the noon hour, and as the roof was of shingles, spread rapidly over the entire building. The city fire department was hampered by defective apparatus and the building continued to burn until night, when there was nothing remaining but the bare hot walls and portions of the lower floor. Such a catastrophe would have completely discouraged most men, but President Clemons and the faculty kept the student body together and the regular classes were called the next morning in improvised quarters. A large tent upon the campus was utilized for classes as was a portion of the dining hall. Some of the classes were held upon the lower floor of the burned building, with only the blue sky overhead. Beside the loss on the main building, much of the furnishings was destroyed. As the fire started immediately above the main exit, very little of the furniture and laboratory equipment was saved, which was a very serious obstacle to the work of the school for some time.

The insurance, while entirely inadequate to reconstruct the building, provided a nucleus toward a building fund, and the reconstruction was at once begun. Before Christmas most of the class rooms were ready for use and school was progressing in spite of the noise of the carpenters' hammers. The reconstructed building is much better in arrangement and construction than formerly, having new furnishings and new floors, with a tile roof on the entire building.

On the night of February 7, 1916, practically the entire west dormitory, half a block in length and two stories in height, was destroyed by fire. This fire started at the middle of the building at about midnight. As the weather was very cold the efforts of the fire department were handicapped by snow and ice. The building continued to burn for the remainder of the night, and nothing was left of the long main hall and the south wing, of almost equal size, but the bare walls. Beside the loss on the building, the students occupying the rooms lost the greater portion of their belongings. Again was the heavy hand of financial loss laid upon the institution, and again the insurance carried was not sufficient

to reconstruct the building. However, with his usual energy President Clemons began the work of clearing away the debris and during the remainder of his ownership of the school partially rebuilt the destroyed portion of the structure.

In 1916 President Clemons was elected state superintendent of public instruction of Nebraska and upon his removal to Lincoln, the management of the college was largely delegated to his wife.

Mrs. Clemons took up the work with much energy and skill and managed the affairs, both financially and scholastically, with marked success, carrying the institution through a very critical period of its history.

While yet state superintendent, President Clemons suffered a severe decline in health, making it impossible for him to give proper attention to his office, and to the affairs of the college. As the entire charge of the institution was too great a burden for Mrs. Clemons, it was thought best to turn the management of the college over to some competent and practical head that the work so well begun might be continued and that even a greater work might be accomplished in the future than had been done in the past.

It became known that Midland College, of Atchison, Kansas, the principal educational institution of the United Lutheran Church in America, was considering removing to some locality which would be more central to its constituency and therefore more able to serve its membership both in furnishing a college for the education of young men and women along scholastic and religious lines, but also to educate and train young men for the ministry.

Acting upon this information, some of the leading citizens of Fremont began a correspondence with the authorities of Midland. Having met with some encouragement in the matter, a committee visited Atchison for a personal consultation with the authorities of Midland. After due consideration by both parties and the exchange of visits of committees to Atchison and Fremont, it was finally decided by the board of directors of Midland College to accept the very generous offer made by Fremont to remove Midland College from Atchison and take over Fremont College, merging both institutions under the name of Midland College and Western Theological Seminary.

The final arrangements were completed on July 29, 1919, and the new management assumed control on August 15, 1919.

The formal opening of the new Midland College took place on September 10, 1919, under highly gratifying circumstances. This was a memorable day in the history of the two schools. A great gathering of former students and friends of both the old schools were present, together with many men and women notable in education and church affairs. The principal speakers upon this occasion were President Stauffer, Dr. O. D. Baltzly of Omaha, Hon. S. R. McKelvie, governor of Nebraska, several leading citizens of Fremont and others high in educational and church circles. Many students of the former Fremont College, together with several members of the faculty, merged into the new college with the happy belief that a great educational institution had been opened at Fremont, capable of doing a work both in popular education and in religious training, which will make it one of the notable educational institutions of the country.

Under the wise supervision and guidance of its worthy president, Dr. Ezra E. Stauffer, the wisdom of the board of directors and the hearty co-operation of the citizens of Fremont and all friends of Christian

education, the upbuilding and permanent success of Midland College is assured.

The school is steadily growing in reputation and popularity. It maintains a faculty of thirty-one members, all departments are strong and well equipped for meeting all calls for service within the scope of its curriculum.

CHAPTER XVII

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

DODGE COUNTY POSTOFFICES—MARKET PRICES—PAST AND PRESENT—
POPULATION OF COUNTY—ORIGINAL VILLAGE PLATS—EARLY MARRIAGES—GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE—ELKHORN FLOOD OF 1873—OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION—DAYS OF MOURNING—PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S DEATH—PRESIDENT GRANT'S DEATH—PRESIDENT MCKINLEY'S DEATH—HYMN TO NEBRASKA BY REV. W. H. BUSS.

POSTOFFICES IN COUNTY

Dodge County postoffices in 1893 were listed as follows: Fremont, North Bend, Scribner (Cuming Township); Hooper, Nickerson, Snyder, Dodge, Swaburgh (Logan Township); Jamestown (Platte Township); Mapleville (Cotterell Township); Ridgeley, Webster (Ridgeley Township); Pleasant Valley, Bang (Maple Township); Maple Creek (Cotterell Township); Everett, Ames (Platte Township); Purple Cane, (Union Township); Glencoe (Webster Township); Crowell (Pebble Township).

The adopting of the rural mail delivery by free carriers has materially changed the postal affairs of this as well as other counties.

The present (1920) postoffices in Dodge County are as follows:

Ames, Crowell, Dodge, Fremont, Hooper, Nickerson, North Bend, Scribner, Snyder, Uehling, Winslow.

MARKET PRICES—PAST AND PRESENT

The local history of no county or state would be considered complete without it contained the ruling market quotations at various periods in the history of such a locality. The following paragraphs will show the prices that obtained at Fremont in 1869 and in 1892, as published from time to time in the Fremont Tribune, and were furnished that paper by local dealers: will also show the present (1920) prevailing prices which should be considered as "just after the great World war":

	1869	1892	1920
Best white sugar, per lb.	\$.20	\$.04 @ \$.05	\$.25 @ \$.30
Best green tea, per lb.	1.50	.70	1.00
Common coffee, per lb.	.40	.20	.50
Kerosene oil, per gal.	.40	.15	.22
Nails (cut), per lb.	.10	(cut) .03	(wire) .07
Stovepipe, per joint	.30	.15	.30
Domestics, per yard (common)	.18	.08	.45
Prints, per yard (best)	.11	.06	.32
Seamless grain sacks, each	.50	.23	.90
Wheat, per bu.	.70	.50	2.89
Corn, per bu.	.50	.30	1.67
Salt meats, per lb.	.23	.10	.42
Farm wagons, each	100.00	60.00	125.00
Harvesters, each	225.00	160.00	300.00
Sewing machines, each	85.00	45.00	80.00

Live stock, produce, shoes and clothing—from cotton or wool—have gone very high since 1917 when America united with the allies in the war against the German states. At present summer of 1920, two years after the end of the war, these prices obtain, generally in the Middle West: Hogs, \$16; cattle, \$13.25; draft horses, \$250 each; gasoline, 28c; eggs, per dozen, fresh, 35c; creamy butter, 72c per pound; men's suits, \$30 to \$75; men's shoes, \$5 to \$15; ladies' shoes, about the same. It is not now believed that present prevailing prices on many of these articles will soon, if indeed ever, go much lower. Especially produce here named.

From a history of the Elkhorn Valley published in 1892 the subject of prices was then handled after this fashion, and may well be applied to the present generation:

"The pioneer who with failing eyesight and who may chance to read this item will recall other days, early scenes. He will let memory assert itself and go back to from 1856 to 1866. He will remember how glad his family were to get wheat bread, New Orleans molasses, the old-time wet brown sugar, the tallow candle, in place of kerosene oil—that was undiscovered until 1861. Then again as he reflects there comes to his mind those dark and trying days of the Civil war when 'substitutes' were used at home as well as sent to the field. There was barley, carrot, pea and parched bran all of which the family used as substitute for coffee while various leaves including those from the red-root were used as the substitute for tea. Indeed the present generation ought to rejoice and be glad that they live in a land of peace and plenty and are not subject to such great hardships as were experienced by those who first came here to make for themselves a home."

POPULATION OF DODGE COUNTY

At various periods the population of Dodge County has been as follows:

In 1844 it had.....	106	In 1854 it had.....	139
In 1856 it had.....	313	In 1860 it had.....	309
In 1870 it had.....	4,212	In 1880 it had.....	11,191
In 1890 it had.....			19,260

According to the census reports in 1870 the population was divided as to nationality thus: American-born, 2,556, and foreign-born, 1,656.

Thirty years ago, or in 1890, the United States census reports gave the following concerning the population of the cities, villages and townships of Dodge County:

Fremont (city)	6,741	North Bend (town)	897
Dodge (village)	338	Scribner (village)	664
Hooper (village)	670		

TOWNSHIPS

Cotterell	701	Pebble	871
Cuming	715	Pleasant Valley	815
Elkhorn	412	Platte	741
Everett	680	Ridgeley	807
Hooper	569	Union	660
Logan	673	Webster	889
Maple	778		
Nickerson	633	Total of county	19,254

POPULATION 1900-1910

As given in the official census reports of the United States for the census periods of 1900 and 1910 the figures are these:

	1900	1910
Cotterell Township	1,194	831
Cuming Township, including Scribner (village)	1,514	1,488
Scribner (village)	891	827
Elkhorn Township	513	442
Everett Township	612	546
Fremont City	7,241	8,781
Hooper Township, Including Hooper and Winslow (villages)	1,439	1,496
Hooper (village)	840	741
Winslow (village) .....	..	99
Logan Township, including Uehling (village)	621	857
Uehling (village) .....	..	228
Maple Township	1,409	606
Nickerson Township	717	637
North Bend (city)	1,010	1,105
Pebble Township, including Snyder	973	990
Snyder (village)	229	314
Platte Township	1,358	1,134
Pleasant Valley Township	734	646
Ridgeley Township	847	675
Union Township	723	632
Webster Township, including Village of Dodge	1,393	1,342
Dodge (village)	554	661

The 1920 census is not yet reported.

ORIGINAL VILLAGE PLATS

The original village plattings in Dodge County, according to the plat-book records at the courthouse, are as follows:

FREMONT was originally platted in the summer of 1856 and filed for record January 6, 1857, by the Fremont Town Lot Company, James G. Smith acting for such company. The Government had not as yet surveyed the land in this vicinity at that date, hence in platting the surveyor described the location as being so many rods and chains, from the guide-line, or to a point to the south which had been surveyed. The Military Road which runs east and west through the city was not surveyed true, and the original platting of Fremont conformed to that, consequently the streets and alleys of the present city are not square with the compass by a few degrees. As now surveyed and described, the city stands on sections 22 and 23, township 17, range 8, east of the sixth principal meridian.

HOOPER was platted by John I. Blair, February 15, 1871. It is located on the east half of section 17, and the northeast quarter of section 20, township 19, range 8.

NORTH BEND was platted October 12, 1867, by S. S. Caldwell, M. S. Cotterell and the Union Pacific Railroad Company in sections 6 and 7, of township 17, range 6.

SCRIBNER was platted December 6, 1870, by John I. Blair, on the north half of section 31, township 20, range 7.

PEBBLE was platted September 19, 1870, by J. B. and H. J. Robinson and their wives. It is located in section 36, township 20, range 6.

DODGE was platted August 10, 1886, by the Western Town Lot Company, in the west half of section 8, township 20, range 5.

SNYDER was platted August 5, 1886, by the Western Town Lot Company in the southwest quarter of section 18, township 20, range 6.

NICKERSON was platted by John I. Blair, January 13, 1871, on the northeast quarter of section 13, township 18, range 8.

CROWELL was platted or filed for record, December 22, 1883, by the Elkhorn Land and Town Lot Company. It was surveyed and located in the southwest quarter of section 2, and the north half of section 11, township 20, range 6.

UEHLING was platted December 6, 1895, by Theodore Uehling and Frank B. Hutchens, in section 3, township 20, range 9, east.

WINSLOW was platted by the Sioux City and Ashland Development Company, in section 22, township 19, range 8, east, December 1, 1895.

AMES was platted (second time) December 18, 1913, by N. J. Johnson and Albert D. Graham and wife. Location, section 9, township 23.

EARLY MARRIAGES

The earliest marriages in Dodge County included the following list: William N. Whittier and Miss Emma Strickland, both of Fontanelle, were granted licenses to be married by Judge S. I. Frances, October 6, 1856.

J. W. Pattison and Miss Henrietta Rednour, October 30, 1856, both of Fontanelle.

F. W. Fox and Harriet Whittier, November 30, 1856.

William Mosepage and Minna Dittmar, November 13, 1856.

Harlow J. Carpenter and Ellen G. Griffin, March 9, 1857, were united in marriage by Rev. Elder M. M. Hann.

Seth A. Holton and Miss Elizabeth Roe, both of Fontanelle, obtained license of Probate Judge Samuel Strickland, and were married by Reuben Gaylord, a minister of the Gospel.

Henry Brinkman and Hannah Stork were married November 7, 1857, by Rev. Thomas Waller.

Theodore F. Keep, of Fontanelle, and Miss Caroline Davis, January 4, 1858.

Abram I. Warner and Miss Lucinda Whitford, before Judge Strickland, October 23, 1858.

Luther Wilson and Eliza W. Turner, by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, August 23, 1858.

Timothy L. Felton and Miss Mary Bogan, before Samuel Strickland, probate judge, September 20, 1858.

Jerome Spillman and Estabella C. Hancock, May 14, 1859.

George Hinday and Miss Rachel Denslow, united by Rev. J. M. Taggart, May 17, 1859.

William E. Larkin and Rebecca Ann Keeler, by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, July 16, 1859.

John W. Waterman and Elizabeth R. Graham, July 27, 1859.

George Young and Miss Elizabeth Stoss, July 23, 1859, by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE

The years between 1873 and 1878 were dark, hard years for the settlers in Nebraska and Western Iowa, on account of the grasshoppers, which came down in vast armies, even like the stars of heaven or sands

on the sea-shore, innumerable. They destroyed all kinds of vegetation. This occurred not alone one season, but for four or more in succession. No one but he who has gone through a like experience can begin to know the feelings of the husbandmen whose crops bid fair to yield a bountiful harvest, and then within three days have all in ruins. There were debts to meet, the good wife and children to care for and clothe during a long, cold winter and no bank account to draw on. Indeed those were days that tried men's souls.

A citizen writing to an eastern friend said: "This summer (1874) is the hottest I ever experienced. For three weeks the thermometer registered from 90 to 106 degrees. A strong south wind has been constantly blowing. It has hurt our wheat badly—part of my own is burned up—Saturday, August 11, grasshoppers began to drop down. They are now in seven counties and more to hear from. When they first came, man or beast could not travel. The air was filled with them and it gave the appearance of a great snow storm with a heavy wind; they covered everything on the ground, buildings, fences and all. Such a sight I never wish to behold again. Turkeys and chickens had no use for them and retired in seeming disgust. Think of them commencing at ten in the morning and constantly coming until nightfall. Just above me is a side track on the railway line and in the afternoon they wanted to switch some cars but were foiled in the attempt as the grasshoppers covered the ties and rails in such masses that they caused the wheels to slip instead of roll on the rails. This is no fancy picture but can be vouched for and proven.

"You can't kill the *infernal cusses*. I took two and held them under water ten minutes and when I released them they were spry as ever. These I send in my letter I pinched the heads off of as you can see. You can't kill them by stepping on them. I hope these will have a good time on their-way to New York and may they die on the journey for I assure you they are not dead yet! One I pinched Sabbath last and I see he still kicks defiantly! I also send you the tail of a rattle snake and if you like them I will send you a whole one in my next letter."

In 1875 the farmers had been so badly eaten out by the grasshoppers that they could not procure seed grain. They had paid, a number of years, as high as sixty per cent interest on money to purchase seed with. That extortion was bad as the "hoppergrass" was himself and yet of selfish human origin. Hon. George W. E. Dorsey, later Congressman, came to the front and advertised to lend needy farmers money in all amounting to five thousand dollars, at 10 per cent which at that date in Nebraska was but half value of general interest.

ELKHORN RIVER FLOOD OF 1873

There had been no record of higher water in the Elkhorn River than was seen in the flood of 1873. It was in the month of June, when the water spread from bluff to bluff. Large quantities of stock and buildings were floated off down stream many miles from where they had been erected or kept. Growing crops were materially injured and many of the settlers had to seek refuge in second stories of houses. No damages were sustained by bridges in Dodge County but in Cuming the loss was great.

Sunday, June 8, 1873, a Union Pacific express train from Omaha while crossing the Elkhorn bridge met with an accident. The tender,

engine and a car load of living fish in transit west, fell through the approach to the bridge caused by the washout. The engineer and firemen escaped but road master Carey was drowned.

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

To a true and intelligent pioneer there are few if any gatherings of more real interest than that of old settlers' reunions. Every county has at one date or another organized such societies, but alas how few keep them up from year to year, continuously.

In 1889 such a society or association was organized in Dodge County and its first meeting was held at North Bend, July 4, that year. Fully five thousand persons were in attendance. The acting president was George Young, a pioneer of pioneers. He stated that the first Fourth of July celebration in this county was celebrated in 1856 by the little colony who had arrived from the East on that very morning in their "prairie schooners" and celebrated the day by the side of their wagons, without flag or fire-crackers.

The regular set speech of the first old settlers' reunion above mentioned in 1889 was made by a Methodist preacher named Brooks. H. P. Beebe also gave a graphic description of his experiences during the winter of 1856-57.

A most excellent glee club was composed of the following: Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Doubt-Brave, Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, Mr. Flater, Elmer Davis, Doctor Brown, Miss Gertie Rice, with Mrs. C. O. Armstead as organist rendering "Oh, Hail ye Free."

J. H. Graham and Robert Kittle as well as M. S. Cotterell gave addresses causing merry shouts and others brought many a tear to the cheek.

The first officers of this Old Settlers' Association were these: W. H. Ely, president; George Young, first vice president; J. H. Peters, second vice president; J. B. Robinson, third vice president; Eli Hager, fourth vice president; Robert Kittle, secretary; L. J. Abbott, recorder; Henry P. Beebe, treasurer; Chaplain, Rev. Isaac E. Heaton.

The following was one of the important articles in their constitution (No. 3). "Residence prior to February 1, 1867, or for twenty-five consecutive years in Dodge County, the payment of fifty cents to the association and subscribing to this Constitution shall constitute any person, their wives, husbands and descendants, members of this association."

Among other meetings of this association may be recalled the ones held at the park in Fremont in June, 1890; also one held in 1891 at the Village of Hooper. Since these annual re-unions the association has not prospered, in fact has entirely gone down and it is to be regretted.

THE NEBRASKA PRIZE HYMN

Composed by a Dodge County author for the semi-centennial of the State, in competition with volunteer writers throughout the State.

Now sing NEBRASKA through the years;
Extol her stalwart pioneers;
The days, when staunch and unafraid,
The State's foundations well they laid,
To long endure:

Yea, sing the proud Tree-planter State,
 Nebraska, free, enlightened, great!
 Her royal place she has in Song;
 To her the noblest strains belong,
 Her fame is sure!

The land where Coronado trod,
 And brave Marquette surveyed the sod;
 Where red men long in council sat,
 Where spreads the valley of the Platte
 Surpassed by none;
 The land, beside whose borders sweep
 The big Missouri's water deep—
 Whose course erratic, through its sands,
 From Northland on, through many lands
 Does sea-ward run.

The foothills of the Rockies lie
 Afar athwart her western sky;
 And rolling prairies, like the sea,
 Held long in virgin sanctity
 Her fertile loam.
 Her wild-life roamed o'er treeless plains
 Till came the toiling wagon-trains,
 And settlers bold, far westward bound,
 In broad Nebraska's valleys found
 Their chosen home.

Her heaving bluffs uplift their heads
 Along her winding river-beds,
 And, pleasing far the traveler's view,
 Well guard her Elkhorn, and her Blue,
 Encrowned with wood.
 And there, by landmark, ne'er to fail,
 Upon her ancient westward trail;
 Or graven stone, securely placed,
 By eyes observant may be traced
 Where wigwams stood.

Her honored cities grow in wealth,
 In thriving commerce, public health;
 Her first: "The Gateway of the West;"
 Her Omaha that will not rest,
 Or take defeat.

Her Capital of worthy fame
 That bears the mighty Lincoln's name,
 And summons to her Fount of Truth
 Her thousands of Nebraska youth
 At Learning's Seat.

Far o'er her realm, and 'neath her sky
 Her golden harvests richly lie.
 Her corn more vast than Egypt yields;
 Her grain unmatched in other fields;
 Her flocks and herds;

Her fields alfalfan; winding streams;
Her sunsets thrilling poets' dreams—
These all we sing, and know that Time
Has never sung a fairer clime,
In mortal words.

O proud Nebraska, brave and free—
Thus sing thy populace to thee;
Thy virile strength; thy love of light;
Thy civic glory joined with right;
Our hearts elate.
Thy manly wisdom, firm to rule,
Thy womanhood in church and school;
Thy learning, culture, art, and peace,
To make thee strong, and ne'er shall cease
To keep thee great!

DAYS OF MOURNING IN THE COUNTY

Upon the sad occasion of the death of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, Grant and McKinley, at various places in Dodge County, appropriate memorial services were held. To show the spirit of sorrow that was manifested throughout the county it is well to note some of the particulars concerning such memorial services held in the county seat—Fremont:

DEATH OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

In April, 1865, upon the news of President Lincoln's assassination the citizens of Fremont (then a mere hamlet) gathered in a memorial service at the old Congregational Church. Reverend Heaton was then pastor and probably delivered the address. There is perhaps only one person living in Fremont at this time who was present on that mournful day. From such an one it is learned that some returned soldiers were present in uniforms and "stacked" their guns inside the church during services. A gloom settled over the little county seat town over this event.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

Sixteen years after Lincoln's assassination, the people of the City of Fremont were assembled in memorial services over the lamented President James A. Garfield, who fell at the hands of an assassin July 2, 1881, and died, September 19, the same year. These sad services were held in the old Crosby Opera House on Fifth near Main Street. It was filled to overflowing. The designs and general decorations were of the most befitting character. Capt. James Murray (then county judge) and county school superintendent H. G. Wolcott were chief speakers. One represented the democratic party while the other represented the republican party. They were both old Civil war veterans. The usual music was provided for the mournful occasion and the Grand Army appeared in a body.

In each of these memorial services the citizens of Fremont and surrounding country manifested much grief and hoped that they would never be called upon to go through another like sorrow, but alas, not so! McKinley was slain just twenty years later. But chronologically the passing of General Grant should first be mentioned.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT

While the people of the larger cities all over the country were in deep mourning over the death of the great soldier-statesman, Fremont people were more than willing to join in appropriate union services. These services were held in the city park (the time being the month of August, 1885) at 2 o'clock P. M. Before that hour arrived the fire and church bells of the city began tolling and with other evidences of mourning on all sides, it was plain that the hearts of the people of Fremont were heavy with grief.

McPherson Post Grand Army of the Republic and Company "E" Fremont National Guards, the latter headed by the cornet band, marched to the park in uniform. More than one thousand people were assembled on, and near the speakers' stand and others stood beneath the cooling shade of the trees. Indeed it was an impressive sight. The stand with its somber drapings and the flag waving in graceful folds above, with wreaths, and crosses and harps of beautiful flowers, all bespoke of the love the citizens of the community bore for the dead hero of many Civil war battles. Peering through the trees, a dark cloud mantle was seen across the sky, while the cool breeze stirred the leaves as they breathed a sad requiem for the great soldier whose body was at that very hour being lowered to the silent tomb by the far distant sea.

The program of this memorial was replete with interest. Rev. John Hewitt was master of ceremonies. The Fremont Cornet Band opened with a solemn dirge, followed by the invocation by Rev. John G. Lange, of the Congregational Church. Then came a hymn "His Last Battle," sung by twelve male voices. Prayer was offered by Reverend Blosz of the Presbyterian Church; a hymn "Weep for the Brave." The address of the day was delivered by Reverend Lawrence, who spoke tenderly in making his impressive tribute to the life and character of Gen. U. S. Grant.

The decorations were truly beautiful in design. The sides of the platform and the adjacent trees were festooned with black and white cambric, bouquets of bright flowers ornamenting the loops. In front were pictures of Grant, Lincoln and Garfield, all heavily draped with black. There were here and there crowns, harps, hearts and crosses made of lovely flowers. The speaker's stand was in jet black, surrounded with a bank of flowers, bordered with fragrant leaves and a line of scarlet geraniums at the top and bottom, amid a solid center of feverfew and the word "GRANT" brought out in blue ageratum. Above and back of all was the national flag drooping in graceful folds.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

Lincoln, Garfield, Grant—then the nation mourned the death of President William McKinley, in the autumn days of 1901. For many days the whole people of the Republic were inquiring after the condition of their beloved executive, after he had been shot while attending the Exposition at Buffalo, New York. His name was in everyone's mind, for he was a beloved man, stricken down by an assassin in days of supreme peace and prosperity. Finally the end came and "*The President is dead*" flashed from ocean to ocean and from lake to gulf.

A few days after his death, and as his funeral was being held in Canton, Ohio, every place of note in the Union held its memorial

services. In Fremont, as is shown by the newspaper files of that date, services were held at the various churches on Sunday. Special memorials were held at the First Methodist Episcopal, the First Congregational and the Episcopal Church, where eloquent sermons were delivered by the pastors. At the other churches fervent prayers were offered up to the Most High, asking for guidance of the new ruler of the nation's affairs.

At the Congregational Church beautiful decorations together with a large portrait of President McKinley were very impressive. His last words were handsomely inscribed in white lettering upon a black card just above the likeness. The audience was made up of all classes, and professions and business callings. Members of the choir sang: "Lead Kindly Light," "One Sweetly Solemn Thought," and "Nearer My God to Thee."

Rev. William H. Buss, pastor, took for his text the words of Second Samuel 1:19—"The beauty of Israel is slain upon Thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!" Among the many touching tributes paid the departed President by Reverend Buss were the following paragraphs:

"Immortal is the scene of McKinley's death-bed—no fear there. No fretting at God's will. No cry for vengeance. But the quiet of the spirit self-committed to the hands of the Almighty. A smile of deathless love for the weeping wife. A pressure of the dying hand. A faint singing, as of the very soul anticipating its reward and saying: 'Nearer My God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.' A lapsing into unconsciousness, and then after another waking the last farewell, that might well break and yet comfort the hearts of eighty million people he so loved; 'Good-by all, good-by! It is God's way; Thy will be done!'

"Ah, friends, here is the end of the Christian, and that end is peace."

At the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Fremont, Rev. F. H. Sanderson spoke eloquently from Second Samuel, 3:38. He delineated the career of McKinley from his noble youth to the time he was slain by the hand of an assassin. He spoke of him as a boy, as a soldier, as a statesman. Continuing in his discourse, the speaker said he "earned his fame not alone by things written and said but by the arduous greatness of things done. His personality was more eloquent than tongue, more commanding than pen. Measure his character in what we may, it stands in pre-eminent greatness."

At St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, on that memorable Sabbath, the Rev. H. B. Jefferson, rector, delivered an impressive address. He spoke from St. Mark, 4:24—"Take heed what ye hear." This was a discourse filled with appropriate remarks and especially that part touching on parents. He warned the parents present to care well for their children and not allow them to degenerate from liberty to license, but to keep them at home and give them careful training.

The services held in Fremont and other parts of the county on the occasion of the death of the lamented and universally beloved William McKinley will long be remembered by all who heard the above mentioned addresses.

CHAPTER XVIII

VARIOUS CHURCHES IN DODGE COUNTY

FIRST CHURCHES IN DODGE COUNTY—THE CONGREGATIONAL DENOMINATION—METHODIST CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY—FREE METHODIST CHURCHES—UNITED PRESBYTERIAN—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES—BAPTIST CHURCHES—LUTHERAN CHURCHES—VARIOUS BRANCHES—CATHOLIC CHURCHES—CHRISTIAN CHURCH—ADVENTIST CHURCH.

It can be truly said that the religious element has always predominated in Dodge County. This is not to be understood that all pioneers and those who settled here at a later date, were Christians or church members, for many were not, but a majority of them were of some one of the many religious denominations, owing to nationality and location from which they emigrated. The Catholics were early in the field, and the Protestant churches were well represented by those who came in from some one of the New England states, or possibly from the Middle and Southern states. The Methodists, here as everywhere, were among the pioneer band; also the Congregationalists, from York State and New England.

As soon as the various communities had built for themselves such buildings as were needed for residences and stables, they at once commenced to cast about and agitate the matter of building schoolhouses and churches. Frequently the schoolhouses, though of logs, were built with the view of using the building for both school and church services.

The sturdy pioneer who came in from the East, having crossed the two great rivers—Mississippi, and Missouri—had left homes where the sound of the church-going bell still echoed in their ears, though here they had settled on a trackless prairie, far removed from chapel or church. They had been reared under religious influences and wanted to raise their sons and daughters in the faith of their fathers, hence assisted in providing convenient church edifices, when possible to do so.

FIRST CHURCH IN COUNTY

The distinction of having organized the first church in Dodge County must be credited to the First Congregational Church of Fremont. It was organized August 7, 1857, with seven members. From this small beginning it has grown to a strong active church of five hundred members, forty of which number are now absent members. This church was formed by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, and seven persons as follows: Edward H. Barnard, William R. Davis, Nathan Heaton, Isaac E. Heaton, Mrs. Miranda N. Heaton, Mrs. Alice Marvin and Henry A. Pierce. Mr. Davis soon returned to his former home in Wisconsin and Father Nathan Heaton died the following October, so the good minister and wife, with three charter members, commenced in reality to build up the interests of the church—the first within Dodge County of any denomination. Rev. Isaac Heaton served as pastor twelve years during which he increased the membership to fifty. In the spring of 1869, Rev. Isaac Heaton resigned and in October that year, Rev. J. B. Chase was called and served two years. Following is a list of other

pastors: Rev. Roswell Foster, three years, during whose pastorate the church edifice was enlarged; Rev. George Porter, one year; Rev. A. T. Swing, in 1878 a pastorate continuing eight years; and Rev. F. L. Berry, who served two years. Rev. William H. Buss followed with a pastorate of nearly twelve years and was succeeded by Rev. John Doane whose service was of three years. He was succeeded by Rev. William H. Buss who conducted a second pastorate of twelve years resigning in 1918. The next minister was Rev. O. O. Smith who began September 1, 1918.



FIRST PARSONAGE IN NEBRASKA

The first few years after the organization of this church, services were held in a small frame building later incorporated into a residence still standing at the corner of Eighth and C streets. An outline of the various places where services have been held by this church is as follows: While the above building was being used and in 1860, material was gathered for a church building. This was all destroyed by fire. Soon after (probably 1861), a small unfurnished dwelling was used for a church and continued to be used for a number of years. In 1868 a frame church was erected, its size was 28 by 40 feet. In this building's tower was placed the first church bell. In 1874 this church was enlarged, under pastorate of Rev. Roswell Foster. About 1880, the building was again enlarged under Pastor Swing, and during his pastorate a thousand dollar pipe organ was placed in the church.

In 1885 the present beautiful brick church was erected at a cost of \$25,000 and the pipe organ formerly in the old frame building was transferred to the new edifice. In 1907, under the pastorate of Rev.

William H. Buss, the new Austin pipe organ was dedicated. It was purchased through the efforts of the Ladies' Aid Society. Its cost was \$3,200. The present church building stands on the same site of the former frame structure at the corner of Military Avenue and Broad Street. It was dedicated June 6, 1885. Its seating capacity is about seven hundred—five hundred in the main auditorium and two hundred in the social rooms.

Under the pastorate of Rev. William H. Buss, the church has celebrated both its fortieth and its fiftieth anniversaries, attracting prominent visitors from all parts of the country and adding luster to the annals of the organization. In each of these years large improvements were made in the property at the cost of thousands of dollars; and the church made a record in the last quarter of a century for benevolence and membership growth. It also built a parsonage at Thirteenth and I streets that cost nearly four thousand dollars. This building was sold and an old parsonage property near the church was rebuilt in 1914 at a cost of \$2,000 and in 1919, improvements in the church property were made to the value of \$2,000. The entire property is now valued at \$75,000.

THE SCRIBNER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Scribner Congregational Church was organized in 1871 and now has a total membership of ninety-four. A building was erected in 1882 and was later enlarged to meet the demands of the growing congregation. The society also owns its own parsonage. The Sunday school connected with this church has an attendance of about one hundred and twenty. The present superintendent is E. H. Koch.

The charter members included these: (Rev. Thomas Douglas of Fontanelle, being the moderator of the organized meeting) Andrew and Sarah Warwick, Lina Clayton and Maria Wright.

The various pastors have been: Rev. Andrew Warwick, L. E. Barton, Wallace Bruce, A. L. Seward, A. Doremus, M. B. Harrison, R. W. Birch.

THE DODGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A Congregational church was formed at the village of Dodge February 14, 1887, by Rev. J. D. Stevenson. The first members included these: S. Lant, E. H. Lant, H. Stormer, H. S. Stormer, Helen Campbell, W. Hatton, A. A. Hatton.

At first services were held in the railroad depot but in 1887-8 an edifice was built costing \$1,000.

A good parsonage was soon provided for the pastor, costing \$640.

Among the earlier pastors here were Revs. J. D. Stevenson, Samuel Pearson, P. H. Hines.

This denomination has churches at Uehling, and possibly other points in the county not reported to the writer.

METHODIST CHURCHES IN DODGE COUNTY

Methodism was early in the religious field of Dodge County, coming only second to the Congregational denomination.

"The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Fremont" was organized in the winter of 1857-58 with the following as charter members:

E. H. Rogers, Lucy J. Rogers, Mary Flor, Wealthy Beebe, L. H. Rogers. The first pastor was Rev. J. Spillman. At first services were held at the residence of E. H. Rogers, but a frame church building was erected in 1866, which stood on the corner of Eighth and Broad streets, the site of the present edifice. This frame structure served well its purpose until the end of twenty years when the present frame church was erected, a portion of the edifice being worked into the new church. Its total cost, originally was \$10,000. About 1900 the building was inadequate for the growing congregation and it was enlarged considerably, but for a number of years it has been altogether too small for the congregation with the various departments of church and Sunday school work, hence the matter of rebuilding was agitated recently and it was voted to build a new edifice costing about \$90,000. The preliminary work of raising funds is now (July, 1920) going forward. The building will stand on the present site—opposite the beautiful city park—an ideal place around which clusters many a hallowed memory of earlier days in Methodism in the City of Fremont.

In 1875 a parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,000. In 1903 a new parsonage was built costing \$5,500.

The charter members of this church are now all deceased. The present total membership is nine hundred and sixty (960) at this writing.

The present Sunday school has a membership of 500 and its capable superintendent is Miss Linna Barnett.

For a few months this church occupied jointly with the Congregationalists, their church building; the Methodists here have been independent as a society and owned their own church property. The various pastors who have served this church are as follows:

Revs. Jerome Spillman, J. Adriance, 1858-59; L. W. Smith, 1859-60; David Hart, 1860-61; Theodore Hoagland, 1861-62; J. H. Alling, 1862-63; M. Pritchard, 1863-65; J. Adriance, 1865-67; Joel A. Van Anda, 1867-70; E. J. Mechesney, 1870; Charles McKelvey, 1870-72; G. W. De La Matyr, 1872-73; J. M. Richards, 1873-75; C. G. Lathrop, 1875-76; G. W. De La Matyr, 1876-78; L. B. W. Long, 1878-79; J. W. Shank, 1879-81; W. F. Warren, 1881-83; J. Fowler, 1883-84; George M. Brown, 1884-87; T. B. Hilton, 1887-89; J. W. Robinson, 1889-92; George M. Brown, 1892-94; F. M. Sisson, 1894-97; W. P. Murray, 1897-99; F. H. Sanderson, 1899-1905; John A. Spyker, 1905-08; Thomas Bithell, 1908-11; F. M. Sisson, 1911-17; Emory D. Hull, 1917—to the present date, 1920.

Other Methodist churches of Dodge County are located at Hooper, North Bend, Ames, Purple Cane, Bethel Church, southeast of Hooper and Nickerson. Some of the information blanks sent out to the churches have not been returned to the historian, hence only meager account is given of such societies.

THE HOOPER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This church was organized in 1872 by Rev. George De La Matyr. The first members were: Mr. and Mrs. Orlando A. Heimbaugh, Mrs. Andrew Baker, and either two or three other persons. The first meetings were held in the railroad depot. A neat frame church was built in 1884, at a cost of \$3,200. This building was dedicated by J. B. Maxfield, D. D.

The present membership is one hundred and forty.

The Sunday school connected with this church has an enrollment of 125 scholars; its superintendent is George W. Heine.

The pastors who have served at Hooper have been: Revs. L. Charles, 1882; W. G. Pyle, 1883; W. A. Davis, 1884; Charles C. Wilson, 1885-86; J. E. Q. Flaharty, 1887-88; O. Eggleston, 1889-92; J. B. Leedom, 1893; William J. Hatheral, L. D. Matson, W. W. Shenk, William Esplin, 1895-98; B. B. Kiester, 1898; A. A. Luce, 1901; William Esplin, 1902-03; L. R. De Wolf, 1904; George B. Warren, 1905-06; J. H. Hard, 1907-08; C. O. Trump, 1909; T. E. Smith, 1910-12; B. F. Eberhardt, 1913; W. W. Whitman, 1914-15; A. H. Brink, 1916-18; E. H. Tipton, 1919, still serving in 1920.

NORTH BEND METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This church is unfortunate in having many of its earliest records lost, but from what can be now, at this late day, gathered from quite reliable sources it may be stated that the following is about the outline history of this Methodist Church: It was organized in 1858 by the pioneer minister, Rev. Jacob Adriance. In 1869, Rev. J. Van Anda formed a Sabbath school, the first members of which were: Dora V. Johnson, Mary H. Skinner, Mrs. Benjamin, and Mrs. S. L. Lester. At first they assembled in the school house, but in 1872 a frame building was erected for their use. The present (1920) total church membership is 146.

The following have served as pastors of the North Bend Methodist Episcopal Church: Revs. John Van Anda, J. M. Adair, Reverend Charles, C. W. Dawson, D. Marquette, John Brooks, C. C. Wilson, Peter De Clark. No record at hand for further pastors except the present one, Rev. W. H. Jackson, whose salary the last year was \$1,700.

The present church edifice was erected a few years since at a cost of \$15,000, including parsonage and grounds.

NICKERSON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Up to 1888 religious services at Nickerson were held by various denominations at the school house but during that year the Methodists built a neat chapel costing \$1,300. The railroad donated \$200 towards the purchase of the lot on which to erect the church building.

The present total membership of this church is 275; present Sunday school membership 201; value of church property \$1,700. The present pastor, Rev. E. O. Johnson, receives a salary of \$400 a year from this church.

AMES METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

No data was furnished the historian from which to compile a history of this church organization. Conference reports in 1919 gave the membership at 114; its pastor Rev. Frank L. Reeder, salary, \$1,110. The total value of the church property is \$11,500.

BETHEL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This church is situated in Maple Township, Dodge County, and was organized February 16, 1874, by charter members as follows: Edgar Adriance, Anna Adriance, Louisa Bemar, James Hanson, Sr.,

James Hanson, Jr., Charles Brown, Catherine Brown, and Ann Bradbury. At first services were held at the Brown schoolhouse, but in 1878 a neat frame church was erected and was dedicated by Presiding Elder Slaughter. This building was built on the southeast corner of section 4, township 18. In 1891 there was a total membership of forty persons here.

Among the earlier pastors of this church may be recalled: Revs. Jacob Adriance, Reverend Dans, J. Q. A. Flaharty, W. G. Harrigan, J. Adair, Peck, W. J. Pyle, W. S. Davies, C. C. Wilson, and Rev. O. Eggleston. (No record.)

The present pastor is Rev. H. S. Grimes; membership is 98; salary, \$1,250; value of church property, \$1,250.

JAMESTOWN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This was organized in October, 1888, by Rev. T. C. Clendening and the first members were: J. Adriance and family, T. Craig and wife, R. Kemp and wife. The schoolhouse was first used as a meeting house for this society, but in the fall of 1890 a frame building was erected and dedicated by Rev. P. S. Merrill, of Omaha. The building referred to stood on the southwest quarter of section 20, township 18, range 7, east. The facts concerning this church since the nineties is unknown to the compiler of this chapter.

OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES

Besides the above churches of this denomination there are others at country stations where services are held in schoolhouses.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

March 19, 1903, there was organized at the City of Fremont a Free Methodist Church under the above auspices. Its charter members included: William McElfresh, J. P. Dibble, W. S. Johnson (trustees); A. S. McClure, Ida McClure, Maud McClure, James McCreath, Mrs. McCreath, Etta Guthrie, Joseph Dibble, Della Dibble and S. Anderson.

This society now has a membership of sixty, with a usual congregation of 150.

A frame church was built in 1913, as well as a neat frame parsonage at the same date.

The Sunday school has for its superintendent Alice Pettit; the attendance is about ninety.

The pastors who have thus far served this church at Fremont have been: Rev. A. S. McClure, W. McElbreth, T. W. Rutledge, H. Hayden, W. McElbreth, Mary McIntire, F. E. Miller, L. M. Rutledge, H. Williams, F. E. Miller, W. W. Whyte, H. C. Williams, L. M. Roby and present pastor, W. M. Adams.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There was a society of this denomination organized at North Bend in 1861. The exact date was July 19. Rev. Thomas McCartney was organizer of this church. The charter members were as follows: Alexander Morrison and wife, John Miller and wife, Mrs. W. S. Cotterell, George Young, James Slass and wife, Robert Graham and wife, James Graham, Thomas Patterson, Edward Johnson.

There are now 225 members in this church, with 150 attending Sunday school, with Mrs. Gertrude Johnson as superintendent.

The pastors have included these: Revs. Joseph G. McKee, T. P. Proudfit, Isaac A. Wilson, Robert Campbell, David Inches, L. W. Williamson, G. T. Scott, Peter Swan, Charles W. Ritchie, James Black, J. A. Kennedy, D. D., W. C. Davidson, D. D.

At first services were held in schoolhouses but as the schoolhouse used mostly was a mile west of town, in 1869 a church edifice was erected at an expense of \$1,700. It was erected on the corner of Eighth and Sycamore streets and was still owned by the church in 1893, but not used, as in 1885 a neat frame edifice was built on Ninth and Chestnut streets. The belfry was provided with a clear-toned heavy bell. The cost of this edifice, aside from its furniture, was \$5,000. Dr. Johnson of College Springs, Iowa, dedicated this structure in February, 1888.

A parsonage was built in 1895 and the present one in 1920.

FREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church at Fremont was organized November 23, 1873, and incorporated April 12, 1874, with charter members including these: James G. Kinnier, Mrs. Annie Kinnier, John A. Kinnier, Robert G. Kinnier, Thomas S. Kinnier, James M. Kinnier (from a Presbyterian Church in Ireland), and William Porterfield, Mrs. Mary Etta Porterfield (from Council Bluffs, Iowa), Mrs. Mary E. Fullinweider, Mrs. Clara B. Pilsbury (from the Congregational Church of Fremont).

A frame edifice was erected in 1875, which with the lot cost \$3,600. This was built on Fifth Street, between C and Union streets. The present building was erected in 1910; dedicated December 4, 1910. The parsonage in use now was erected in 1914.

The present Sunday school superintendent is D. D. Rowe and the school has an enrollment of 275 scholars. For a number of years this church has supported Dr. J. F. Kelly on the foreign field in China and is known as a strong missionary church.

The only other Presbyterian Church in Dodge County today is the Webster Church in Webster Township in the northwest part of the county, located nine miles to the north of North Bend.

The pastors of the Fremont Presbyterian Church have been: Revs. Edwin Schofield, A. B. Byrons, P. S. Hurlbert, George M. Brown, R. M. L. Braden, Daniel Blose, Noah H. G. Fifer, Nathaniel Chestnut, Clarence W. Meyer, J. Frank Reed, Nathaniel McGriffin.

THE FREMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

The largest church of the Baptist faith in Dodge County today is the one in the City of Fremont. This society was organized July 15, 1869, by Rev. George W. Freeman. The charter members included these: George H. Morrell, H. R. Harmon, William H. Wick, Grace M. Wick, Abraham Tice, James Tice, J. C. Blackman, H. C. Ward, Charles H. Lewis, Amanda A. Lewis, Miranda Condit, Maria Harmon, Mattie L. Harmon, Deborah Whittier.

The first services were held in the old courthouse. The first baptism was administered February 23, 1870. In the autumn of 1871 a church building was erected at a cost of about \$2,500. It was built on Fifth and C streets. It was enlarged and remodelled several times and the property is now estimated to be worth \$14,000.

The present total membership is 350.

The Sunday school superintendent is Mrs. D. E. F. Manter, and the attendance is about one hundred and sixty.

The pastors of this Baptist Church have been: Revs. J. McDonald, Reverend Guild, Thomas Jones, A. Hitchcock, J. H. Storms, J. W. Osborn, J. C. Lewis, E. R. Curry, H. W. Tate, C. W. Bringstad, T. L. Ketman, E. F. Jordan, H. B. Foskett, I. W. Corey, J. Batzle, R. B. Favoright, who came in March, 1918, and is still pastor of the church.

There is also a Baptist Church at the Village of Dodge, the particulars of which were not forthcoming.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES

This denomination is well represented within Dodge County, and is divided into several branches and nationalities—German, Danish, Swedish, and Danish-Norwegian.

The City of Fremont has the following Lutheran churches: German Lutheran with a good frame edifice on the corner of Third and C streets and in the same block is a two story frame parochial school building, well attended and properly conducted. The Salem, Danish, Swedish, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and Danish-Norwegian churches of this faith have good frame buildings and have regular pastors and services. Salem church just mentioned, has a frame building on the corner of Fourth and D streets, erected in 1902; the Danish Evangelical Church has a frame structure on the corner of Fourth and Union streets, erected in 1907.

ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—HOOPER

This church was organized March 1, 1890, by Karl Kruger. The first membership was largely from among the German settlers in that vicinity. In 1890 a neat frame church was erected over which stood a seventy foot tower. This building cost \$2,000. It was dedicated by C. Huber and C. Kruger. The present value of the church is \$6,000 and the parsonage, \$3,000. Reverend Schrader is Sunday school superintendent and has sixty pupils. This denomination also has a church work and society in Logan Township, Dodge County.

The total membership of the Hooper Church is 248 confirmed persons.

The pastors have been these: Revs. Karl Kruger, 1890-92; L. Grauenhorst, 1893-1900; E. Walter, 1900-08; E. Osthoff, 1909-11; F. Matthiesen, 1911-14; Rev. J. Schrader, 1914, and is still serving the congregation as pastor.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH—HOOPER

The last organized Lutheran Church in Hooper is that known as Grace Lutheran Church which was organized in 1915 by Rev. W. T. Kohse, missionary superintendent. A frame edifice was erected in 1916, valued at \$14,000. The only pastor called thus far has been the present pastor, Rev. K. de Freese.

The present membership is 178. The Sunday school has a membership of 125 and has for its superintendent Mrs. A. E. Herker.

The subjoined is a list of those included in the charter membership of this church: B. Monnich, Dr. W. Howard Heine, J. Sanders,

Mrs. M. T. Gellers, Mrs. J. Sanders, W. E. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Herker, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Herker, Mrs. F. J. Egan, Mrs. J. Killenbach, Mrs. C. C. Cushman, Mrs. J. Schwab, Miss F. Geisert, Mr. and Mrs. William Bucholz, Dr. and Mrs. C. N. Ralph, Harold Kallenbach, R. L. Scharb, Mrs. C. W. Conyers, Mrs. J. Ring, E. M. Uehling, B. Monnich, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schwab, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bott, Charlotte M. Monnich, Mrs. A. P. Larson, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Ring, Martha Kallenbach, Mrs. Ida Basler, Mrs. P. J. Ewold, Mrs. H. Wagner, Norman Wagner, Harry Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Brondt, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Waterman, Gifford Zellers, Chelsea Cushman, Monroe Zellers, Harry Schwab, Frank Schwab, Louis Alperstedt, Walter Killenbach.

Other points in the county where this denomination is represented are: Fremont, Ridgeley, Scribner, Uehling, Ames, Winslow, and Snyder.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Dodge County has numerous Catholic congregations including those at Fremont, Scribner, North Bend, Dodge and Snyder. The Fremont congregation is a strong organization and dates back early. It has a handsome, large, red brick edifice at the corner of Fourth and C streets; also a fine red brick school building built in 1913. It is three stories high and modern appointments throughout. It faces Fourth Street and is next to the church property.

Unfortunately the writer was not furnished with the usual information blank sent to the churches of the county, hence no details on the various Catholic congregations can be had in this connection. Rev. Father O'Sullivan is pastor of the Fremont church at this time.

THE ADVENTIST CHURCH

Only one organization of this denomination is found within Dodge County and that is at the City of Fremont. The society is not large and is not supplied regularly with a pastor. They own a small chapel, centrally located.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

The Christian (Disciple) Church is represented in Dodge County at points as follows: North Bend, Fremont.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCHES

Fremont and North Bend each have a Christian Science organization, and the few of this faith in the two communities meet for regular weekly services, but so far no buildings have been provided for the societies. The believers in this denomination and its teachings hope not far distant to be strong enough to have a church edifice of their own.

ST. JAMES PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This church was organized at the City of Fremont July 14, 1865. Episcopal services were held, however, at this point at a much earlier date. At first they worshiped at the house of pioneer Robert Kittle,

and later at the schoolhouse. It was in the summer of 1867 that they reared the first edifice which stood near the present one. It was a frame building and was consecrated September 15, 1867. The original membership of this church was as follows: Robert Kittle, Helen Kittle, Ella Kittle, Wm. V. Johnson, O. C. Dake, J. F. Reynolds, Rebecca A. Reynolds, John Ray, Lucy Ray, Harvey H. Robinson, Benjamin Turner, Emily J. Turner, Samuel W. Hayes, Sarah Hayes, Abraham Howes, Sarah Howes, George Turner, John S. McCleary, Aletha C. McCleary, Theron Nye, Caroline M. Nye, Luther J. Abbott, M. D., Clara J. Abbott, Anna E. Abbott.

The following include the various rectors of this church and parish: Rev. O. C. Dake, Rev. J. May, Rev. Martin F. Sorenson, Rev. Frank E. Bullard, Samuel Goodale, D. D., Rev. John McNamara, D. D., Rev. Timothy O'Connell, Rev. Alexander Allen, Rev. John Hewitt, Rev. C. McCracken, Rev. A. B. Spaight, Rev. James Cochran Quinn, D. D., Ph. D., LL. D., and after resigning he was succeeded by Rev. C. E. Brandt July 1, 1895, and in 1896, he resigned and was followed by Rev. J. C. Gallandet and he in turn was succeeded by Rev. E. Warren Clarke in 1901-02 and was followed by Rev. H. B. Jefferson and then came Rev. Harry Moore, then Rev. W. H. Frost. The last mentioned clergyman connected with this parish, according to the record-book of the parish was Rev. George S. G. Tyner.

The parish is without a rector at this time (1920).

Of the building operations let it be said that Bishop Talbot appointed Reverend Dake as first rector in July, 1865, as a missionary clergyman to organize a parish here. Fifteen hundred dollars was donated by St. James Episcopal Church of Chicago toward a building fund and that is how this church in Fremont took its name—"St. James." The citizens of Fremont including Episcopal members raised \$1,500 more toward building. A number of lots were bought where now stands the church at the corner of Fifth and D streets. At first a cottonwood hall was erected for school and church uses, but on account of the warpy character of the home grown wood this building proved a failure after a few months use and was abandoned for the use intended. The present brick edifice was completed May 1, 1888, at a cost of \$9,800. The rectory, etc., added to this made the total outlay \$15,000.

CHAPTER XIX

THE CIVIC SOCIETIES OF THE COUNTY

FREE MASONRY—ODD FELLOWSHIP—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—THE WOODMEN—WORKMEN—KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—EASTERN STAR CHAPTERS—REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES—BEN HUR—WORKMEN AND VARIOUS OTHER SECRET AND SEMI-SECRET LODGES.

In these modern times one may go to all parts of the globe and wherever civilized man is found, there is found some one of the various civic societies or orders which have for their object the betterment of the brotherhood of man. A century ago it was not popular to have it universally understood that a man belonged to a secret society. Many of the religious bodies would not tolerate its members in becoming active members of lodges. But as time passed, and the people by degrees began to understand something of the benefits of such orders, the prejudices became less, until today Masonry, Odd Fellowship and other lodges have become very popular and are rapidly increasing in number and membership.

There are legions of life insurance beneficiary lodges, some of which are herein noted, while the great, real secret orders are confined chiefly to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

FREE MASONRY

The most ancient of all secret orders is that of Masonry. The first lodge of this high order to be instituted in Dodge County was Fremont Lodge No. 15, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized June 20, 1867, by the following charter members: S. W. Hayes, J. H. Crabbs, Robert Kittle, E. H. Rogers, Thomas Wilkinson, S. C. Curtis, William G. Bowman, Joseph Lambertson, O. C. Dake. S. W. Hayes was the first Worshipful Master.

In 1892 the total membership of this lodge was 162. The present (1920) total membership is 416. Its present elective officers are: Edward G. Bauman, worshipful master; Charles E. Miller, senior warden; Lawrence M. Nichols, junior warden; Otto H. Schurman, treasurer; Mathew A. Priestley, secretary; Harold D. Keene, senior deacon; David H. Ohlmutz, junior deacon; Lawrence E. Taylor, Senior steward; John E. Long, junior steward; Charles A. Morse, tyler. Trustees—Fred E. Lee, Fred C. Laird and Henry Wohner.

All degrees of Free Masonry are here represented. Signet Chapter, No. 8 was instituted, or worked under dispensation from August 1, 1871, and under its charter from June 17, 1872. The charter membership was: Lewis M. Keene, H. B. Nicodemus, William H. Munger, Samuel Hayes, Frank W. Hayes, John N. V. Biles, S. Bullock, Henry Fuhrman, E. H. Gray, M. H. Hinman, A. C. Hull, Fred Jenewein, James A. Moe, J. S. Shaw, W. D. Thomas, Ashbury Townsend, E. Van Buren.

Mt. Tabor Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 9, at Fremont, was instituted, October 29, 1879, with the following Sir Knights as charter members: Cornelius Driscoll, William Fried, Samuel G. Glover, E. F.

Gray, Joel A. Green, M. H. Hinman, L. M. Keene, William F. Lee, William H. Munger, H. B. Nicodemus, L. D. Richards, L. B. Shephard, William D. Thomas, A. Townsend, E. Van Buren. In 1892 this Commandery enjoyed a membership of 104 and at the present date (summer of 1920) it has a membership much greater.

Emmett Lodge of Perfection No. 5 of Scottish Rites, at Fremont, was instituted March 24, 1888, with charter members as follows: John Hewett (thirty-second degree), Venerable Master; L. M. Keene (thirty-second degree), S. W.; L. D. Richards (thirty-second degree), Alm.; C. M. Williams (fourteenth degree), secretary; Frank Fowler (fourteenth degree), treasurer; Nathan H. Brown (thirty-second degree), Arthur Truesdell (thirty-second degree), Julius Beckman (fourteenth degree), William C. Brady (fourteenth degree), V. S. Hoy (fourteenth degree), George W. Sellers (thirty-second degree), Leander B. Smith (thirty-second degree), James H. Hamilton (fourteenth degree), Edwin T. How (thirty-second degree).

Arbor Vitae Chapter No. 92 of the Eastern Star was organized in 1894 and its present membership is 400.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE

The present beautiful Masonic Temple at Fremont was erected in 1888. It was built by the Masonic Temple Craft, an incorporated stock company, made up of the Lodge, Chapter and Commandery. Its cost was \$26,000, exclusive of the lot on which it stands, and furnishings. The capital stock of this corporation was \$36,000. The first officers were: L. M. Keene, president; A. Truesdell, vice-president; Robert Kittle, secretary; W. D. Thomas, treasurer.

The corner-stone ceremonies were of a very impressive character. They took place August 23, 1888. Grand Master George B. France had charge of the work. A metal casket or chest was enclosed within the corner-stone and overtopped by it. This contained, among other articles of historic interest and future value: Officers of the Fremont Lodge at that date; the "Great Lights of Masonry"; by-laws of Signet Chapter No. 8; charter and names of Mount Tabor Commandery, K. of T. No. 9; names of the Masonic Craft at Fremont; photographic views of the temple to be constructed; municipal records of Fremont; Dr. L. J. Abbott's Centennial History of July 4, 1876; records of Company "E" Nebraska Guards; records of McPherson Post Grand Army of the Republic; records of Women's Christian Temperance Union; copies of the Daily Tribune and Daily Herald of Fremont; an account of the public schools of Dodge County; an account of Odd Fellowship in Fremont.

MASONIC HOME FOR CHILDREN

In 1916 and 1917 the Masonic Home for Children, under care of the Eastern Star, was completed. The Grand Lodge of the state and the Local Masonic order at Fremont purchased sixty-seven acres of land, just to the north of the city. The cost of the land, the superintendent's home and farm buildings was \$37,500. The home for the boys and the home for the girls cost about \$28,000. Fremont Masons contributed \$10,000 for the purchase of the land and for the homes. The average number of resident children is thirty—half boys and half girls. John W. Sexton is superintendent of the farm and buildings; Mrs. Edna Boorman is matron of boys' home and Mrs. Bess Bauer is matron of the girls' home.

SCRIBNER LODGE NO. 132

Ancient Free and Accepted Masonic Lodge at Scribner was organized July 9, 1884. The charter members were as follows: Jesse A. Nason, Chauncey D. Gardanier, James Booth, J. J. Barge, John Romberg, William B. Gardanier, Gustave A. Diels, Robert Moodie, Robert A. Hasson, Walter A. King, Charles Inches, Carl T. Pulsifer, Joseph L. Baker, John Baker.

The present (1920) lodge has a membership of sixty-two.

Of the original officers it may be stated the following served as first elective officers: Jesse A. Nason, worshipful master; Chauncey D. Gardanier, senior warden; James Booth, junior warden; John L. Barker, treasurer; Robert C. Hasson, secretary; J. J. Barge, senior deacon; William B. Gardanier, junior deacon; Gustave A. Diels, tyler.

The present or 1920 elective officers are as follows: Paul L. Keller, worshipful master; Emanuel A. Bauer, senior warden; Harold Christy, junior warden; John F. Drenguis, treasurer; Clarence Ranslem, secretary; Peter L. Bauer, senior deacon; John Beaver, junior deacon; James M. Beaver, tyler.

This lodge rents a hall at \$190 per year; it is situated on the west side of Main Street.

HOOPER LODGE NO. 72

Hooper Lodge No. 72, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was organized March 19, 1878. The charter members were as follows: Abner D. Harwood, Jerry Denslow, William A. G. Cobb, Samuel Kreader, James P. Lamberson, H. C. Craig, Frank E. Wickwire, James F. Burns, William H. Aldrich, John F. Romberg, Oswald Uehling, James H. Caldwell, Robert M. Peyton, George Briggs, Edward H. Airis, James F. Briggs.

The lodge has increased with the passing years until it now has a total of 100 Master Masons.

The first and present elective officers have been as follows:

Title	First Officers	Present—1920
Worshipful Master.....	James F. Burns.....	Herman R. Meir
Senior Warden.....	H. C. Craig.....	J. Sherman Zellers
Junior Warden.....	Jerry Denslow.....	Edward H. Schwab
Treasurer	Samuel Kreader.....	F. H. Maryott
Secretary	Wm. A. G. Cobb.....	Norman E. Shaffer
Senior Deacon.....	Frank E. Wickwire.....	John A. Feinaigle
Junior Deacon.....	James P. Lamberson.....	P. Edward Peppmiller
Tyler	William H. Aldrich.....	William O. Anderson

The lodge owns its own lodge room—a two-story brick building with basement, located on lot No. 5, in block No. 2, Hooper. It is valued at \$10,000 and has no incumbrance against it.

NORTH BEND LODGE NO. 119

The Ancient Free and Accepted Masonic Lodge at North Bend, this county, was organized June 24, 1884, with charter members as follows: James A. Bonner, Thaddeus W. _____, Christopher Cussack, Michael Dowling, George A. Eanos, Peter Gillis, Anson J. Hasting, David A. Hopkins, Wesley Lynch, Joseph E. Newsom, Milton May, Goldsmith H. Norris, Bissell P. Rice, John Y. Smith, Frederick L. Thompson,

Chauncy B. Treadwell, W. J. T. Wallace, Hermon F. Wilcox, Charles M. Williams, William H. Yaw.

The present (1920) total membership of the lodge is 110. The value of the property now owned by this Masonic Lodge at North Bend is about \$10,000. First and present elective officers are these:

Title	First Officers	1920 Officers
Worshipful Master	M. Dowling	John R. Tapster
Senior Warden	C. B. Treadwell	Harry Cussack
Junior Warden	J. A. Bonner	R. A. McWhorter
Treasurer	P. Gillis	Roy J. Cussack
Secretary	C. M. Williams	Henry J. Newsom
Senior Deacon	D. A. Hopkins	Leonard B. Woods
Junior Deacon	T. J. Chapin	Thomas G. Grimes
Tyler	Joseph E. Newsom	Joseph E. Newsom

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

This fraternity is an auxiliary of the Masonic Order, and is made up very largely of the ladies whose relatives are Masons. Dodge County has a number of such chapters, as these societies are known. This order has within the last decade become very popular and seems to be of much interest and value to the women who are active members of such auxiliaries to Masonic lodges. Especially is this true in traveling among strangers, as members of the Masonic Order readily recognize and protect those who are known to be members of the Eastern Star. The work of this order, founded on Bible characters, is very impressive and uplifting in its character.

RUTH CHAPTER No. 119—NORTH BEND

This Chapter was organized September 27, 1897, with charter members as follows: Rachel Hiett, C. H. Walrath, W. D. Foote, Mae B. Walrath, M. Dowling, Bertha A. High, Susan High, Anna M. Johnson, Florence Main, J. B. Foote, J. E. Newsom, May P. Dowling, Jessie Sherwood, Iva Main, D. M. Strong, Mabel C. Cussack, James H. Johnson, Ralph Main, Gertrude Sherwood, B. D. Sherwood, Mary E. Dowling and Anna M. Kastle.

The total membership in 1920 of this Chapter is 124.

The original and present elective officers are as follows:

Title	Original	Present
Worthy Matron	Rachel Hiett	Jessie Emerson
Worthy Patron	M. Dowling	Fred A. Howe
Associate Matron	Mrs. M. Dowling	Sarah Howe
Secretary	Mabel Cussack	Maude Raitt
Treasurer	Mae Walrath	Wealthy Foote
Conductress	May Dowling	Grace Sidner
Associate Conductress	Florence Main	Gertrude Johnson
Warder	Wealthy Foote	Grace Haverfield
Adah	Mary Walker	Hortense Lehmer
Ruth	Gertrude Sherwood	Hazel Armstead
Esther	Anna Johnson	Cedelea Brownwell
Martha		Elizabeth Hoff
Electa		Cora M. Lehmer
Organist		Alma Hatcher
Sentinel	J. E. Newsom	Laura M. Thom

FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER NO. 122—HOOPER

This Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was organized February 26, 1898. Its charter members were as follows: Mrs. A. M. Denslow, Mrs. Charlotte Uehling, Mrs. O. Dooley, Mrs. Emma Briggs, Mrs. B. Kreader, Mrs. E. Hibler, Mrs. John Ring, Mrs. Barbara Monnich, Mrs. E. Renkin, Mrs. H. A. Harris, Mrs. P. Kroeger, Mrs. Mary Cushman, Miss Hattie Caldwell, John Ring, Bernard Monnich, Edward Renkin, Theo Kroeger, Charles Cushman, Charles Rogers and O. Dooley.

The total membership of this Chapter in June, 1920, was 134. The first and present set of elective officers were:

Title	Original	Present
Worthy Matron.....	Mrs. Anna Denslow	Miss Katherine Rebbee
Worthy Patron.....	Mr. E. Renkin	Mr. Edward Rogers
Associate Matron.....	Mrs. Mary Cushman	Mrs. Sherman Zellers
Secretary	Bernard Monnich	Mr. H. Schimmel
Treasurer	Charlotte Uehling	Mr. Henry Rebbee

ODD FELLOWS LODGES OF COUNTY

Odd Fellowship is well represented in the various places of Dodge County. Its membership is large and the interest in the order is deep and productive of much good in the county.

Without regard to the chronology of the time in which these various lodges of the "three-linked-brotherhood" were organized, the following account of the order will be given:

NORTH BEND LODGE NO. 161

North Bend Lodge was organized May 12, 1888, with charter members as follows: A. B. Elwood, Isaac Banghart, L. C. Holmes, Van Banghart, J. E. Newsom, Harry Fertig, Joseph Datel, S. J. Fertig, W. W. Roberts, Joseph Hodgin, Harry Bogge and a few others whose names were not reported to the historian.

This Odd Fellows Lodge has a present total membership of 102. Its present officers include: Roy Lamby, noble grand; J. C. Mines, vice-grand; Frank Howe, secretary, and V. W. Jansen, treasurer.

A lodge hall is owned by the order in block 44 of the North Bend City platting, a portion of which is used for store purposes.

NICKERSON LODGE NO. 390

Nickerson Odd Fellows Lodge No. 390 was organized June 17, 1920, with a charter membership as follows: George W. Hansell, Cordie F. Diercks, John W. Ward, W. H. Routh, Don D. Hill, Ernest Sexton, George S. Robertson, Peter W. Johnson, Fred Brackett and Bert L. Sidel.

The first and also present elective officers are: Noble grand, John W. Ward; vice-grand, Ernest Sexton; secretary, George W. Hansell; treasurer, Bert L. Sidel.

The present membership is seventeen. This is the last Odd Fellows Lodge organized in Dodge County.

CENTENNIAL LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS NO. 59

This lodge was organized April 19, 1876, and had charter members as follows: Martin Higgins, A. B. Dawson, Milton Cook, John McCarn,

John Stein, Charles Mitchell, William Durkee, Jackson Lee, Morris Davidson, Wilbur Roseman, George Ruggles.

The present total membership of this lodge is 332.

The third floor of the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building is owned and occupied by this order for lodge room uses.

The 1920 elective officers are: L. M. Nichols, noble grand; Edward Bentz, vice-grand; Milard Steen, secretary; Fred Bader, treasurer.

Other lodges of this order are those at North Bend and Nickerson, both within Dodge County.

The auxiliaries—the Canton and Rebekah degree lodges—are also well represented in Fremont.

REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES OF I. O. O. F.

Both Fremont and North Bend have auxiliaries to the Odd Fellows Order, the same being the two Rebekah lodges.

Golden Rule Lodge of Rebekahs No. 59, at the City of Fremont, was organized March 26, 1891, and now enjoys a total membership of 331. The charter members were as follows: I. P. Gage, M. G. Cook, P. Peterson, C. A. Ryan, Rila Ryan, C. C. Pollard, H. H. Pratt, E. Nilson, T. W. Gibson, J. H. Williams, H. L. Goodrich, T. J. McKinney, Ida H. McKinney, Carl B. Elsworth, O. H. P. Shively, F. M. McGiven, Rose McGiven, T. L. Nesbit, J. C. Knudsen, C. O. Pillsbury, A. Truesdell, A. C. Jensen, Sr., B. F. Stouffer, Arthur Gibson, Jennie A. Gibson, George F. Wolz, Maggie Wolz, Jennie Lee, J. C. Lee, C. Christensen, Maria Christensen, Manly Rogers, Mariah Rogers, George L. Loomis, Alice H. Loomis, W. J. Bullock, Nellie Bullock, Estella Baldwin, Bela Baldwin, J. V. N. Biler, Theresa Biler, Gilmore King, Ida L. King, Samuel Sickel, C. H. Perrigo, Mrs. Perrigo, Josephine Elliott, O. D. Harms, Charles H. May, J. A. Sill, F. I. Elick, W. H. Fowler, J. S. Seeley, P. B. Cumings, E. Schurman, Henry Breitenfelt, Nannett McCam, S. F. Moore, Nora F. Moore, Cora M. Smith, L. B. Smith, Thomas Frahm, Rickia Tully, Otto Hueitti, Charles Balduff, Sr., George A. Murrell, Nancy L. Murrell, W. C. Wiley, George Basler.

The first elective officers were: Ida H. McKinney, noble grand; Jennie A. Gibson, vice-grand; Nannett McCam, secretary; Maggie Wolz, treasurer.

Present (1920) elective officers: Evelyn Lane, noble grand; Ella Eickhoff, vice-grand; Emma Balduff, secretary; Clara Stewart, treasurer.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

This is one of the more modern civic societies—founded at the close of the Civil war in the City of Washington, where Lodge No. 1 was instituted. It has grown wonderfully and now ranks along third in the great secret orders—Masons and Odd Fellows only being ahead in this class of fraternities. In Dodge County this order is not strong, although some lodges have been organized.

TRIUMPH LODGE NO. 32

This lodge at Fremont was organized October 13, 1885, and now enjoys a membership of 260.

Its first and present (1920) elective officers have been as follows:

First Officers	Title	Present Officers
J. E. Frick	Past Chancellor	
C. D. Marr	Chancellor Commander	G. W. Nagel
F. D. Ellick	Vice-Chancellor	H. C. Koplin
F. A. Harmon	Prelate	J. W. Cattern
G. H. Staube	Keeper of Rec. & Seal	H. M. Weeks
George F. Looschen	Master of Finance	L. C. Spangler
A. Truesdell	Master of Exchequer	W. T. Robertson
Frank Dolezal	Master-at-Arms	W. F. Primley
T. L. Stribbling	Inner Guard	Ray Moller
August Reitz	Outer Guard	H. D. Groetzinger
	Master of Work	F. B. Snyder

This order owns no hall, but has a handsome property on the banks of Platte River, four miles west of Fremont, known as Knights of Pythias Park, purchased in September, 1919, at a cost of \$2,000, and has here made many improvements so that today it is well worth double its cost price.

The only other active lodge of this order in Dodge County now is at Hooper.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

This is one of the numerous mutual beneficiary life insurance orders which of recent years has become very popular. The Woodmen of the World and the Modern Woodmen of America, rivals in a way of each other, are both represented in Dodge and Washington counties to quite an extent.

SNYDER LODGE NO. 470

This lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America was organized May 25, 1898, and had for its charter members these persons: R. O. Jung-hand, Carl Schneider, A. J. Schneider, Otto Sievers, E. Sievers, Claudi Wendorf, David Weggund, Claus Plahn, Jens Peterson, Emil Zalm and one other.

The present membership is seventeen, in good standing:

The 1920 officers are: Venerable consul, William J. Wolsleger; advisor, Doctor Mead; banker, Otto Sweres; clerk, Claudi Wendorf; escort, Otto Dallman; watchman, Fred Bilke.

Connected with this lodge is also an auxiliary by the ladies of members of this lodge. At present Mrs. Will Wolsleger is clerk of the auxiliary.

NORTH BEND LODGE

This lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America was organized June 14, 1889. The charter members were as follows: E. E. Davis, C. K. Watson, Ernest Kern, S. J. Hyatt, Ira Doane, J. A. Newal, J. E. Newson, H. G. Snyder, C. O. Armstead, Peter Gillis, O. M. Scott, F. S. Millar, C. W. Dodge, Robert Wyatt, John Ross, Burlingame Walker, J. H. Chalmers, F. S. King, A. E. Kemper, Harry Walker, A. J. Siders, F. J. Kastle and G. O. Dodge.

The present total membership of this lodge is 221. The first and 1920 elective officers are as follows:

First Officers	Title	1920 Officers
E. E. Davis.....	Consul	M. L. Tharp
Ernest Kern.....	Advisor	R. G. Miner
M. G. Snyder.....	Banker	R. H. Haverfield
S. J. Hyatt.....	Escort	H. A. Millar
C. O. Armstead.....	Secretary	C. C. Frahm
J. E. Newsom.....	Watchman	C. C. Frahm
Ira Doane.....	Physician	P. R. Howard
.....	Past Consul.....	A. W. Millar

The present trustees are: F. S. Millar, James Coen, E. H. Rector.

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN

This is the oldest of all the fraternal insurance orders that have ever been instituted in the United States. It was formed by laboring men at Meadsville, Pennsylvania, in 1868, and now has its members in all parts of America by the tens of thousands. Millions of dollars have been paid to beneficiaries in the last half century and more. All other similar institutions have been patterned after this order. This lodge provides for \$2,000 to be paid upon proof of death, and thus far they have never failed to pay within thirty days—the limit.

FREMONT LODGE NO. 23

This lodge was organized at the City of Fremont, December 8, 1883. Its original members were: F. M. Smith, N. H. Brown, A. E. Stewart, A. G. Weander, H. D. Brooks, A. O. Noreen, C. C. Beverage, E. J. Boyd, S. R. Patten, R. C. Vaughn, B. F. French, W. G. Yost, S. L. Cleland, H. K. Middekauff, P. D. Denney.

The present (1920) total membership of this lodge is fifty. Other lodges of this order are found at Nickerson, Hooper, Scribner, Snyder, Dodge and North Bend.

The first elective officers were: H. D. Brooks, master workman; H. K. Middekauff, recorder; B. F. French, financier; E. G. Boyd, treasurer; N. H. Brown, one of the trustees.

The 1920 officers are: C. K. Coleman, master workman; C. R. Shaffer, recorder and financier; A. K. Dame, treasurer; Louis Hanson, trustee.

HOOPER LODGE NO. 226

Ancient Order United Workmen Lodge No. 226 was organized at Hooper January 8, 1892, and now has a membership of fifty-one. The first or charter members of this lodge were inclusive of the following persons: Frank Hegenbotham, Angus Philips, John Ring, Bernard Monnich, C. E. Ingelsby, T. W. Lyman, E. W. Renkin, John McKeage, Fred Bruse, Fred F. Heine, W. Adkins, Fred Burbank, George W. Swegard, A. E. Tunberg, H. D. Dodendorf, W. E. Wilson, J. L. Alperstead, William Borkenhagen; Carl Kahlbeck, Charles Buckolz, J. D. Stroup, E. W. Renkin, Louis Edelman, Dan C. Foley, George W. Wolcott.

This lodge leases its hall and has regular meetings. Of its first and present (1920) elective officers the subjoined is a list:

First Officers	Title	Present Officers
John Ring	Past Master Workman	John Edelmaire
Angus Philips	Master Workman	W. C. Springer
E. W. Renkin	Foreman	W. F. Bayer
Bernard Monnich	Overseer	Frank H. Nelson
C. E. Ingelsby	Recorder	John Ring
T. W. Lyman	Treasurer	A. E. Tunberg
John McKeage	Guide	Lester O. Jeffers
Fred Bruse	Inside Watch	A. E. Tunberg
Fred F. Heine	Outside Watch	Christ Dethelfsen

BEN HUR

This modern beneficiary order was organized in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in the eighties and its name was taken from Gen. Lew Wallace's celebrated novel of the Orient called "Ben Hur" who was the leading character of the wonderful literary production. Dodge County at this date has only one such Lodge or Court as it is called, and this one is at Fremont. It was organized January 14, 1895 and now has a membership of thirty-nine, but at one time had a large following. It may be of interest as the years slip away to know who were charter members in this lodge, as herein is found the names of many of the city's best known business and professional men:

Frank Hammond	O. H. P. Shively	M. S. Short
N. H. Brown	L. C. Truesdell	A. Truesdell
A. Truesdell	Jacob Brown	Fred Drew
P. E. Lumberd	B. H. Siepker	Edward Benton
C. R. De La Matyr	C. T. C. Lollich	Charles H. Brunner
W. H. Atwood	Harry R. Pettit	L. M. Keene
Ira Wallingford	W. R. Van Dusen	G. Nieman
T. L. Mathews	F. I. Ellick, Jr.	F. T. Hanlon
A. K. Dane	L. S. Moe	J. H. Mathews
B. Franklin	J. T. McGinnis	I. McKennon
Charles L. Olds	William W. Fish	R. C. McDonald
F. M. Clafin	C. C. Pollard	Z. P. Stephens
George F. Wolz	C. W. Wallace	W. H. Munger
R. E. Parker	E. A. Truesdell	J. Hughes
J. A. Murrell	A. D. Smith	F. W. Sisson
E. E. Cochran	James S. Seeley	J. E. Frick
J. C. Ferguson	R. L. Hammond	W. H. Clemonns
J. R. Bader	James D. Bell	C. W. Jones
J. D. McDonald	C. R. Schaeffer	Grant Parsons
N. J. Walker	Paul Colson	R. A. Twiss
William H. Lucraft	Henry Jurging	J. P. Mallon
Fred Gumpert	George Haslam	J. H. Rogers
W. H. Jones	Dan Miller	Frank Dolezal
C. D. Marr	T. R. Churchill	C. Sigafous
R. D. Kelly	L. B. Comon	F. A. McGinnis
T. W. Miller	M. H. Hunter	J. H. Knowles
Ira A. Wood	D. B. Cary	M. L. Godfrey
L. D. Richards	William Marshall	Wm. R. Brunner
H. L. Himes	O. Anderson	M. B. Croll
George B. Eddy	Lewis Leedom	P. A. Nelson
C. Johannsen	Al D. Sears	

The 1920 elective officers are: past chief, J. A. Murrell; chief, H. L. Himes; scribe, C. C. Pollard; judge, S. S. Sidner

ORDER OF MACCABEES

There are only two of such insurance orders in Dodge County at the present time—the one in Fremont and one at Hooper. The one at Fremont is known as Forest City Lodge No. 50, was organized October 15, 1882, and now has but thirteen members.

The first officers were: D. R. Franklin, I. D. Bell, H. Horner, F. O. McGinnis, E. N. Ellerbrock, August Wonderling.

The elective officers in the summer of 1920 are: I. Donahue, E. N. Ellerbrock, E. W. Martin, F. A. McGinnis, A. B. Miller, B. R. Peters.

THE DANISH BROTHERHOOD

This fraternal insurance lodge was organized at Fremont, as Lodge 26, on October 26, 1895, and now has a membership of 168. They meet at the Morse Hall the first and third Thursday of each month.

When first organized the elective officers were as follows: L. P. Hansen, president; C. T. C. Lollich, vice president; C. H. Christensen, secretary; Soren Jensen, treasurer; Michael Steen, conductor; F. H. Hansen, inside guard; N. P. Holm, outside guard; trustees—S. P. Christensen, Hans C. Hansen and Jach Christensen.

The officers in 1920 are: Christ J. Jensen, president; E. B. Bertelsen, vice president; C. H. Christensen, secretary; S. P. Christensen, treasurer; C. H. Jensen, conductor; Niels Nielsen, inside guard; Jens Weiser, outside guard; physician, J. S. Devries; trustees, Fred Jacobson, Ole Johnson and T. C. Willumsen.

DANISH SISTERHOOD

This is an auxiliary to the Danish Brotherhood and is also of the mutual beneficiary life insurance nature. Lodge No. 37 was organized in Morse Hall December 10, 1896, with charter members as follows: Mrs. C. H. Christensen, North Main Street; Mrs. A. F. Anderson, North Irving Street; Mrs. Japanne Jackson, R. F. D. route No. 1; Mrs. L. Larson, Union Avenue, Mrs. D. Petersen, 738 North Broad Street.

There are now sixty-seven members in this lodge. Its present officers are: President, Mrs. H. Seymonsberger; vice president, Mrs. E. Bertelsen; secretary, Mrs. H. Henninger; treasurer, Mrs. Otto Petersen.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

Among the flourishing fraternal, mutual orders for life assurance is the Order of Eagles of which Fremont Lodge No. 200 was organized in the City of Fremont in February, 1902, with a large charter membership—too lengthy to insert in this work, the number being about eighty. The first meeting was held in what was then styled the Budweiser Building. For many years they have occupied the upper story of the J. Rex Henry Building, between the Y. M. C. A. and First National Bank Building.

The present total membership is 338.

The first elective officers included these: George Howe, worthy president; L. P. Hansen, worthy vice president; C. H. Christensen, secretary;

J. C. Hein, treasurer; trustees, L. P. Larson, John Gumb, J. A. Doerr; physician, Dr. A. P. Overgard.

The only other point within Dodge County where there is another lodge of this order is at North Bend.

The elective officers in the summer of 1920 are as follows: H. J. Bumgardner, president; A. F. Diels, vice president; C. C. Parker, secretary; C. H. Christensen, treasurer; trustees, Ernest Hahn, W. C. Schultz and L. P. Hansen.

YEOMAN LODGE

The only lodge of Yeomanry in Dodge County is the one at Fremont, styled Ivanhoe No. 775, organized August 31, 1901, with charter members as follows: M. A. Mark, O. P. Overgard, A. Bay, M. C. Scott, W. E. Sundell, W. F. Harbach, Charles Madsen, W. S. Ball, N. G. Ubs, W. L. Windsor.

The present membership is 342.

The first elective officers were: M. A. Mark, foreman; O. P. Overgard, correspondent; A. S. Bay, master accounts.

The present officers (1920) are as follows: S. C. Sillick, foreman; B. B. Miller, correspondent; W. A. Edwards, master of ceremonies; E. Colaran, master of accounts.

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

The only lodge of Elks in Dodge County is No. 514 at Fremont. This was organized December 16, 1902. It now enjoys the exceptional large total membership of 360. The popularity of this order in Fremont may be seen by glancing at the list of charter members:

August J. Albers	F. Hollenbeck	J. F. Mitterling
Julius Beckman	Ed Hanlon	E. N. Morse
Frank Brown	Geo. Haslam	C. D. Marr
Otto Brechlin	Guy M. Hinman	Zach Marr
W. R. Brunner	Rex Henry	Mark Mortensen
E. E. Benjamin	N. M. Hansen	C. C. McNish
Olive Bird	J. D. Johnson	R. C. McDonald
G. B. Baird	Bruce Johnson	Ray Nye
C. Christensen	J. H. Knowles	A. P. Overgard
Arthur Christensen	F. H. Knowlton	L. M. Ormsby
L. B. Coman	Lloyd Killian	C. E. Pascoe
H. S. Carroll	Albert Killian	Dr. O. W. Peterson
Paul Colson	J. N. Kelsner	Otto Pohl
P. B. Cummings	L. M. Keene	Thad Quinn
W. J. Davies	Louie Keene	L. D. Richards
H. P. Dowling	Frank Koss	F. H. Richards
C. O. Eigler	C. H. Kirkpatrick	John L. Schurman
A. J. Eddy	Geo. A. Kendall	Otto Schurman
B. E. Fields	John Knoell	J. W. Stewart
John K. Fuchs	A. E. Littlechild	C. H. Stoner
D. Franklin	H. J. Lee	R. B. Schneider
Will T. Fried	J. T. May	Dan Swanson
William Fried	Charles H. May	Merrill Shephard
Frank Fowler	Bert May	Ray Thomas
Ed Forney	Lou May	Fred W. Vaughn
H. T. Fish	E. S. Mitterling	Fred Weachter
J. W. Goff	Pete Mitterling	Dick Welty
I. P. Gage	Harvey Milliken	C. M. Williams
John Graham		

The first elective officers were: Ray Nye, exalted ruler; H. D. Dunning, esteemed leading knight; I. P. Gage, esteemed loyal knight; J. W. Stewart, esteemed lecturing knight; L. B. Coman, secretary; G. M. Hinman, treasurer; Harvey Milliken, esquire; Frank Hollenbeck, tiler; R. C. McDonald, chaplain; John L. Schurman, inner guard.

The 1920 officers are: R. H. Chappel, exalted ruler; Alexander Nielson, esteemed leading knight; George R. Cheney, esteemed loyal knight; Walter E. Jones, esteemed lecturing knight; W. S. Balduff, secretary; G. M. Hinman, treasurer; Cassius J. Reynolds, esquire; N. M. Hansen, tiler; C. Christensen, chaplin; Don B. Wintersteen, inner guard. The trustees are: J. W. Goff, O. F. Turner, H. S. Murphy.

THE HIGHLANDERS ORDER

At the Town of Scribner is located a lodge of Highlanders known as Kilsyth, No. 376, which was formed August 14, 1903, with charter members as follows: Alfred Henatsch, W. G. Henatsch, George Menske, W. R. Dreuguis, A. C. Schien, R. S. Honey, Catherine Honey, J. H. Johnson, Augusta Johnson, J. E. Cusich, M. C. French, G. C. Stewart, Edgar Christy, B. C. Richards, Radoff Fischer, William Knoth, August Selle, P. W. Lockmiller, Margaretha Brown, A. G. Adams, Andrew Warwick.

The present total membership of this order here is sixty-seven. They occupy a leased hall belonging to G. Koplin, on east side of Main Street.

The first and present set of elective officers are as follows:

First	Title	1920 Officers
Alfred Henatsch.....	Past Illus. Protector.....	L. B. Spear
Milton C. French.....	Illus. Protector.....	Elmer Hubler
D. A. G. Adams.....	Chief Counselor.....	Margaretha Milligan
Mrs. Catherine Honey.....	Worthy Evangel	Hulda D. Ehlers
George Mencke.....	Secretary	Elsie V. Ehlers
Wm. R. Dreuguis.....	Treasurer	
R. Fischer.....		John Brass

CHAPTER XX

MILITARY HISTORY OF DODGE COUNTY

CIVIL WAR—LOYALTY OF SETTLERS—ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN—THE INDIAN TROUBLES—THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—THE GREAT WORLD WAR—1917-18.

Dodge County was not settled early enough to have a large enough population during the period of the Civil war to have sent many soldiers to that conflict. Her spirit of loyalty was, however, manifested to a good degree and all that could be spared manfully offered their services in defense of their country's flag. What few enlisted from this county were credited to Omaha and other points in the state, as no full company was sent from Dodge County.

When the war had ended and victory was to the North and the slaves of the Southland were forever free, came that awful blow to the nation when President Lincoln was assassinated by J. Wilkes Booth, April 14, 1865. At Fremont solemn memorial services were held in the Congregational Church, an account of which appears under the head of "Days of Mourning." With few exceptions the people in this county were loyal and did what they could to support the men in the field. With the exception of a few Indian scares after the Civil war ended, Dodge County and this part of Nebraska in general were at peace with all mankind until the difficulty arose between the United States and Spain in 1898. (See below.)

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

In the month of April, 1898, in Havana harbor, the warship Maine belonging to the United States was sunk and many lives lost and it was later proven to have been the work of Spain. From this incident war was declared on Spain by Congress under the administration of President William McKinley. It was largely a marine warfare and after a few weeks ended in the complete destruction of the Spanish war fleet in Manila Bay. The result of this short, decisive war was the independence of Cuba and the Philippines, and the haughty spirit of Spain broken.

President McKinley, so far as available, used the National Guards for soldiers for the army he raised in so few weeks and which did such splendid service, both on land and sea. (See below.)

ROSTER OF DODGE COUNTY SOLDIERS

The following list of officers and men who saw service in the Spanish-American war in 1898 from Dodge County has been compiled from the Adjutant-General's reports of Nebraska, and in the main may be considered correct. (These men served in Company F, Third Nebraska Regiment):

Captain—McVicker, William J., aged 47 years, North Bend.

First Lieutenant—Cummings, Peter B., aged 36, Fremont.

Second Lieutenant—Thompson, William O., aged 30, Fremont.

First Sergeant—Abbott, John W. C., aged 33, Fremont.

Quartermaster Sergeant—Breitling, August W., aged 36, Fremont.

Sergeants—Fuchs, Carl, aged 22, Fremont; Seider, Ernest, aged 18, Fremont.

Corporals—Cruickshank, George C., aged 22, North Bend; Burns, Willis P., aged 28, Scribner; Cook, Artie E., aged 21, Fontenelle; Mines, Herman A., aged 29, North Bend; Simmons, Charles D., aged 33, North Bend; Williams, Wm. M., aged 19, Fremont; Sweet, Clarence, aged 22, Fremont; Jeffries, Solomon G., aged 29, Hooper; Wilbur, Claude, aged 26, North Bend; Benson, Albert P., aged 40, Fremont.

Wagoners—Panbone, Myron, aged 29, North Bend.

Musicians—Glenn, Guy, aged 20, Fremont; Scott, Elmore J., aged 25, North Bend.

Artificer—Becker, Otto, aged 32, Fremont.

PRIVATES

Baughman, Charles, aged 24, Arlington.

Burtz, Charles, aged 20, Fremont.

Burtz, Henry, aged 22, Fremont.

Cantiln, George, aged 26, Fremont.

Collins, Millard, aged 40, Ames.

Cook, Guy, Nickerson.

Elm, William, aged 29, Fremont.

Esplin, Lucius, aged 21, Ames.

Evans, Phinander C., aged 21, Fremont.

Gorey, Thomas J., Jr., aged 23, North Bend.

Hall, Nelson, aged 23, Fremont.

Haverfield, Hayes, aged 20, North Bend.

Jarmin, Harry, aged 20, Fremont.

Jones, Ira F., aged 21, Nickerson.

Karges, John, aged 27, Ames.

Krotchvel, John, aged 27, Dodge.

Lehman, Charles, aged 21, North Bend.

Lehman, James, aged 25, North Bend.

Leist, Jacob, aged 23, North Bend.

Leist, John, aged 24, North Bend.

Loss, Isaac, aged 32, Fremont.

Manzel, Charles, aged 22, Fremont.

Meier, Henry W., aged 21, Hooper.

Nelson, Chris, aged 18, Fremont.

Olsen, Chris, aged 27, Hooper.

Olsen, Lars, aged 32, Fremont.

Petersen, John F., aged 26, Fremont.

Pfaff, Daniel W., Hooper.

Saare, Alfred H., aged 26, Scribner.

Skippes, Fred, aged 32, Hooper.

Strayer, George W., aged 29, North Bend.

Strayer, Chauncy, aged 22, North Bend.

Trott, Henry M., aged 24, North Bend.

Ulrich, John, aged 34, Dodge.

Head, Charles, aged 22, Everett. Died September 3, 1898, in hospital.

Underhill, Charles, aged 38, Scribner.

Zajicek, Joseph, aged 27, Dodge.

Zellers, William M., aged 18, Hooper.

DEATH LIST

These two soldiers from Dodge County sacrificed their lives: William O. Thompson, aged 30 years, Fremont, died September 12, 1898. Charles Head, died in the hospital.

THE WORLD WAR

This, the greatest war ever waged on the globe, was fought on European soil between the German Empire and a score and more of allied nations, including the United States of America. For an extended account of the causes and final outcome of this conflict the military chapter in the Washington County section of this work will treat fully, hence is omitted in this connection.

Dodge County did its full share in this great war for Democracy and in trying to forever obviate more wars on the face of the earth. Life was sacrificed and much material wealth expended between April, 1917, and 1919, when the war ended its active field operations.

ROSTER OF DODGE COUNTY SOLDIERS

The following is the "Honor Roll" or roster of soldiers who served in the late World war from Dodge County, Nebraska, as far as the present county records show. It may be stated, however, that a number more went from the county but entered the service outside this county, hence were not credited here. For additional names of those known to have enlisted away from this county, see later. No absolute list has ever been compiled as yet by either Nebraska or the War Department at Washington, but the following roster must stand for the time being as correct a list as there is data from which to compile one:

Allen, Harry H.	Brown, Clarence Albert
Anaston, Tom	Benton, George A.
Abraham, Arthur H.	Baza, John
Arnold, Harry Allen	Bates, Bruce
Arps, William Charles	Bruton, Wm. Wilson
Alberts, Herman	Bayer, Henry August
Anderson, Jacob Peter	Bicak, Joseph
Archard, Dwight Abner	Book, Joseph William
Andrews, Forest Le Roy	Brazda, Daniel Steven
Ackermann, Frederick Wm.	Brown, Thomas Gilbert
Augustus, Frederick H.	Berry, Jettie Frank
Adams, Frank B.	Burnham, Leland Alfred
Ashenbrenner, Albert	Bodell, Myron Lorne
Adams, John L.	Brandert, August Henry
Adams, Roscoe C.	Boehler, Leonard Victor
Anderson, Dale	Bradley, Frank P.
Abel, Paul Charles	Baker, Harlan K.
Allen, Lewis Wm.	Bauman, Charles D.
Arthur, Lloyd Keith	Bowersox, Franklin Peter
Anderson, Clarence R.	Brooke, Harry T.
Anderson, Robert W.	Bunker, Hubert Andrew
Beaty, Edward Floyd	Bauer, Peter L.
Butterfield, Clarence	Burke, John Joseph
Brannon, Clyde R.	Brown, John H.
Bauman, Edwin George	Bogner, Emil Mike

Brudeen, Charles A.
Beers, Raymond
Buck, Carl Francis
Block, David Michael
Brokenicky, Frank John
Blakslee, Edwin Wilder
Basler, Wm. F. J.
Beachler, Leo Henry
Bucklin, Irving Barrett
Benson, Roy A.
Benfiel, Robert M.
Brunning, Wm. George
Behrens, Fred Henry
Busch, Wm. M. A.
Block, Emil E.
Beachler, Fred L.
Borcherding, Martin A.
Brown, Erma
Beach, Earl Glendy
Brown, George Raymond
Bullock, Charles
Boldt, Alfred C.
Bart, Edward
Brown, Thomas John
Bennett, Marshall
Bronson, Leonard G.
Busch, John Ernest
Blair, Glenn Dale
Bullock, Frank
Boyd, Wilmer Warnock
Baldwin, Arthur
Borg, Gustav Adolph
Chism, Clinton Roy
Curran, Leo Leonard
Curry, James H.
Chapman, Wm. Thomas
Croghan, Cecil La Verne
Campbell, Geo. D.
Cheney, Byron Malcolm
Coash, Tenis Philip
Crowder, Ernest Guy
Cook, Addison Benj.
Carpenter, Donovan Harry
Christensen, Albert
Cobble, Beauregard B.
Connelly, Emmet L.
Christensen, Frank
Clark, Ed Alden
Courtright, Carroll C.
Carstens, Ralph
Cohn, Louis
Cheney, Robert
Crooks, Carroll E.
Crocker, Louis Ray
Carstens, Alfred Hugo
Comer, Isaac.
Campsey, Joseph
Carlson Albert Gustave
Cavender, Frank Edson
Clement, Albert
Cotterell, Roy
Clevenger, Harry Horace
Carlson, John Edwin
Cohn, Samuel Francis
Cuseck, Harry C.
Curran, William John
Christensen, Anton
Cregg, Fred
Christensen, Fred
Christensen, Henert N.
Curran, Edward Francis
Chappell, Roy Henry
Carpenter, Earl A.
Chard, Welton Peter
Chase, John Warren
Cusick, Clarence
Capesius, Peter
Copple, Sumner E.
Chambers, Charles H.
Chapman, John Jose
Cushman, Chelsea C.
Cover, Joseph
Conrad, Benjamin Franklin
Challman, Jr., Samuel K.
Cochran, Thomas Murray
Carroll, John A.
Controles, Francisco
Campbell, Lynn Gerner
Christensen, Martin C.
Chapman, Wm. F.
Carstens, Frank Wm.
Cain, John
Cobble, Houston I.
Chambers, Thorne E.
Cerv, Lewis
Curtis, George Logan
Dobrovolny, Jaroslav
Demsey, Leo Joseph
Duhigg, Michal J.
Draemel, Harry O. G.
Danner, Fred A.
Dolberg, Oscar
Daubert, Edward
Dodge, Herbert G.
Dolan, Edward M.
Duffield, Clarence A.
Diederich, Michael
Denham, Sanford Ray
Dau, Peter John
Durham, Donald

Doyle, Patrick Ambrose
 Dworak, Frank
 Divine, James Curtiss
 Doerr, Harold Frank
 Donegan, Frank A.
 Daum, Frank Joseph
 Dorr, Burton Leland
 Draper, Arthur R.
 Doerr, Glenn H.
 Davis, Glenn Burnie
 Dengler, Frederick A.
 Davis, William Lewis
 Dake, Charles
 Doerr, De Forest J.
 Dahl, Clarence Henry
 Douglas, Clinton H.
 Davis, Elwin Clair
 Dana, Jr., Herbert R.
 Drake, Earl Le Roy
 Emanuel, Patrick T.
 Ernest, Tom
 Estergard, Thomas
 Easter, Earl Joseph
 Evanoff, Vasil
 Ehlers, Wm. John
 Endicotte, Jesse J.
 Ehlers, Walter H.
 Edelman, Louis H.
 Egbers, Carl
 Egbers, Willie
 Ehninger, E. R.
 Emerson, Paul
 Eidam, Clarence C.
 Emerson, Joseph
 Ehlers, Edwin E.
 Ellerbrock, Orville R.
 Eskilsen, Stanley J.
 Edelmaier, Raymond A.
 Farrari, Jacob
 Frederickson, Axel A.
 Franks, Harold L.
 Fitzsimmons, Lovane L.
 Ferguson, Harry Jay
 Flor, Martin E.
 Fry, Harry Wesley
 Flora, Grover Cleveland
 Frederickson, Edward William
 Farmer, Earl Roy
 Fredericks, Harry
 Frost, Irving K.
 Fowler, Alfred W.
 Forest, James M.
 Fleckenstine, William Vincent
 Farley Harry G.
 Flick, Charles R.
 Foley, John Patrick
 Feinauer, William
 Foutes, George Gust
 Farnloff, Ben Eugene
 Ferree, Charles
 Fraggos, George
 Frost, Hubert M.
 Fowler, James Humphrey
 Fitzsimmons, Rollin J.
 Farrell, Leonard J.
 Gunther, Joseph
 Gleason, James J.
 Golding, Joe K.
 Gaddie, Charles Edwin
 Gahagen, Guy Calander
 Gage, Frank Wheaton
 Gutch, Jr., William
 Garfield, Leo Eugene
 Gunderman, Stuart A.
 Gumb, Phillip G.
 Gaughen, Michael R.
 Goss, Carl
 Gerwick, George F.
 Gerke, William
 Garfield, George Perry
 Gueffroy, Charles H.
 Gottsch, Henry F.
 Graham, Kent Wallace
 Gasnike, Jo
 Gaines, Clyde Cecil
 Ginakis, William G.
 Green, Russell E.
 Gorey, Michael
 Gibson, Charles Marion
 Gage, Ralph Harold
 Grubbs, Heavey W.
 Garrison, John
 Gilmore, Hubert Leonard
 Gribas, George
 Hopnuk, Tom
 Henze, Le Roy Arnold
 Harton, Omar A.
 Hartwig, Wm. F.
 Heine, Harman
 Hawley, Jesse
 Howard, Earl Harry
 Hansen, Adolph
 Hull, Jesse Lowery
 Hanson, Donald Everett
 Hayes, Harvey
 Hinricks, Kurt Theodore
 Herman, Ralph Harry
 Howard, Claud
 Huffaker, Irvine Harold
 Hartwig, Herman John

Hutchison, James Robert
Hrabak, Howard Frank
Hornyak, Oscar
Hirsch, Ferdinand John
Hauser, Herbert Saunders
Hammond, Le Ross
Hrouda, Robert Jerome
Haslam, George Alfred
Hoffman, Joe
Hainer, William
Holcomb, Kelly Lee
Hesse, Jr., Chas. G.
Hansen, Otto Christian
Hawkins, Mark Powell
Herman, Edward Thomas
Hick, Earl
Hollister, Frank Finch
Hausner, Gerald
Horn, Logan Albert
Hackstock, Louis
Hausner, William George
Hecht, Jacob
Hanson, Arthur
Hendricksen, George
Hoppel, Claud H.
Hemme, Harry
Holmes, Bernard
Hoover, Benjamin Aaron
Hund, William F.
Hodges, Henry Claussen
Holmberg, Erick Hugo
Hansen, Roy Carl
Hartman, Paul Chauncey
Hasen, Jens Marinus
Harms, August Frank
Hanson, James Rogers
Hendrichson, Lloyd Wm.
Herzberg, Arthur
Hansen, Peter J.
Hoadley, Herbert Eugene
Hanson, Louis Peter
Hatcher, James Floyd
Hagerbaumer, William A.
Havel, Anton Frank
Hansen, James
Holten, Ulrik
Holtberg, Wesley A.
Heckman, Clarence E.
Hager, Lester Roy
Honey, Roy R. S.
Huntman, George H.
Haines, John R.
Hanshel, Herman H.
Hoffman, James
Hansen, Edward B.
Horak, Anton
Horak, Joseph
Holmes, William N.
Houghan, Elmer Charles
Hoaglan, Roy
Hensil, James Henry
Hatch, Orville Ernest
Hickman, John Clarence
Harrison, Bailey W.
Hetmanek, August R.
Hansen, Walter
Howard, Gerald
Hammond, Ross Everett
Hager, Ely Benjamin
Iler, Leonard
Jeffers, Ivan Raymond
Johnson, Lenard Theodore
Jorden, Fred Carl
Johnsen, John Henry
Johnson, William Robert
Jensen, Max
Jones, Ollie
Jones, Lawrence C.
Johnson, Wm.
Jensen, Eric Wilhelm
Janowski, Emil Ewald
Johnson, Victor C.
Jensen, William Bryan
Jones, Irvin Edward
Janssen, Fred
Jones, Carl Preston
Jensen, Ole
Jensen, Carl Erik
Jenssen, Charles Bernard
Johnson, Frederick L.
Johnsen, John Peter
Jansen, Viggo Alfred
Jorden, William Herman
Johnson, Jason F.
Jensen, Victor Emanuel
Jensen, Hans Peter
Jacobs, William S.
Jones, Willis Ernest
Jeseph, Leo G.
Jenkins, Henry
Jackson, Lloyd S.
Jensen, Jamie
Johnson, Hilbert Louis
Johnson, Benjamin H.
Johnson, Walter Emil
Johnson, Charles Fall
Jensen, Arthur
Jonas, Charles Edward
Jones, Forest Harry
Jensen, Arthur E.

Jensen, Peter
 Johnson, Daniel
 Jennings, Floyd Everet
 Johnson, Ray Walter
 Janowski, Albert
 Jensen, Chris
 Krause, John A.
 King, Lloyd
 Krupinsky, Archie
 Knoell, Albert Raymond
 Kremser, Harry E.
 Krupinsky, Benjamin
 Kerstein, Edward Ludwig
 Kinder, Geo. Washington
 Kroenke, Frank
 Kostlan, Alvin
 Kallenbach, Harold Arthur
 Kallman, John Milton
 Kallenbach, William J.
 Keene, Harold D.
 Kastrau, Albert Herman
 Kalk, Benjamin F.
 Keeler, Horace George
 Kouba, Robert Fred
 Kerlin, Lloyd Wyman
 Keller, Samuel Luther
 Kern, Marion John
 Kruger, Rudolph Frederick
 Kiel, John Raymond
 Klare, George C.
 Kriz, Jerome D.
 King, Arthur J.
 Kirtley, William Beauford
 Kallstrom, Herman
 Katz, Harrison Raymond
 Korbles, Paul
 Konge, Christian Olsen
 Kelly, John Greggory
 Kuehm, Arnold Carl
 Kull, William
 Koehler, Jr., William
 Katsumis, James
 Kalinsusky, Stanislaus
 Kappeler, Jacob Carl
 Koons, Harry Jay
 Larson, Edward Peter
 Lockwood, Ward Dustin
 Lundberg, Alvin T.
 Lee, Victor Carlton
 Larison, Victor
 Lehmer, Warren Meyers
 Leister, William
 Lund, L. Noble
 Larson, Elmer Oliver
 Libbert, Theodore
 Lane, Asa King
 Londot, Camille
 Luther, Carl Oscar
 Lunan, Frank Alexander
 Lukl, Charles
 Laderlee, Joseph
 La Violette, James
 Loomis, Howard Waldron
 Lichtenberg, Joseph J.
 Larson, Julius Oliver
 Lawrence, Wilfred S.
 Loomis, Wayne Victor
 Ladehoff, Gilbert C.
 Lange, Wm. J.
 Larson, Kimball E.
 Larson, Ernest Gustav
 Lou, Charles Fred
 Larsen, Lars A. E.
 Lanwermeyer, Joseph
 Larsen, Arthur Harry
 Leigers, Henry J.
 Luther, Howard John
 Lawrence, Albert F.
 Launer, Jacob G.
 Larsen, Ben F.
 Lazazzars, Michael
 Likousis, Gust
 Lea, Fred Edgar
 McHenry, Benjamin Harrison
 McGee, Pelham
 McConnell, Raymond
 McGuire, George Edwin
 McFarlane, Harris
 McIntosh, Earl
 McIntosh, Vern
 McNamara, Walter P.
 McKennan, John E.
 McDill, Homer Kester
 Meyer, Otto Hansen
 Maring, Ralph
 Moyer, Miles Foster
 Millar, Harold Allison
 Maben, Luther Benjamin
 Morrow, James Henry
 Madden, Louis
 Murry, George Roland
 Moeller, John Christ
 Minarik, Mike Lambert
 Mohr, John Frederick
 Mrsny, Charles Adolph
 Millar, Wilmer Leland
 Metzinger, George Ross
 Mehaffey, Raymond Jerome
 Millar, Gilbert Alexander
 Miller, Earl Oliver

Monnich, Bernard C.
Meyer, John D.
Maxwell, Charles V.
Maiker, Fred
Moseley, Frank A.
Melton, Bluff Earl
Meyer, Henry F. A.
Morlin, Gottfried Leon
Meister, William Henry
Marquardt, Gustav Carl
Meyer, Henry
Milliken, James Dale
Mortensen, Alex Emil
Madsen, Alfred Peter
Mortensen, Laurits
Miller, Nathan
Mason, Le Roy George
Moench, August
Moffett, Orville Leone
Martin, Francis Bernette
Martin, Bruce
Monnich, Edward Jacob
Mulloni, Arthur
Mines, Robert August
Melcher, William Ludwig
Miller, Jesse A.
Matthews, William Valentine
Mahlin, Eugene L.
Moore, Benjamin Allin
May, Richard, Col.
Muselbach, Edwin
Murninghan, Peter J.
Morris, Earl Calvin
Manni, Adolph
Miller, Charles
Morgan, George B. A.
Montrey, Victor Le Roy
Miller, Clarence Homer
Marek, Rudy
Marek, Frank
Marquis, Harry Stanton
Muir, Harry Davis
Malloy, Le Roy Edward
Morris, Robert Nathaniel
Marquardt, Elbert
Mattson, Albert
Metteis, Henry
Marr, Lewis Keene
Moseley, Wm.
Morrs, Scotty J.
Melton, Ernest
Martinek, Frank
Nicholson, Bert
Nolte, Leonard
Nielsen, Harry M. C.
Nelson, Julius W.
Nelson, Carl Herbert
Nusz, Stoddard Goddell
Nelson, Niels Christian
Nelsen, Theodore Marius
Nelson, Clinton E.
Nelson, Alvy
Nelson, Chris Beck
Nelson, Edward Oliver
Nugent, Leo
Newlon, Clyde Arthur
Nelson, Charles F.
Olson, Gustus L.
O'Connor, Harold Joseph
Ohmsted, Grover
Olson, Ivan
Oaks, Harry Richard
Olson, Jacob
O'Hare, Willie
O'Connor, Patrick
Owens, Ray F.
Odstrcil, Frank
O'Donnell, Ernest J.
Olson, John E. A.
Olson, Louis
Olmstead, Guy Arthur
Payne, Roland J.
Petersen, Peter A.
Peterson, Luther A.
Parchen, Henry E.
Parsons, Robert Ira
Peterson, Ernest
Pfeiffer, Herbert Harry
Poole, Clarre Othello
Porter, Edwin Le Roy
Pierce, Russell Kurtz
Phillips, Louis Harold
Parr, Joe William
Peterson, Harry B.
Pribnow, August B.
Phillips, Vernon L.
Pegden, Carl Raymond
Pinckney, Thomas Lee
Pitzer, Joseph Chris
Pederson, Anton
Pruss, Edward
Pettit, Ray
Powell, Wm
Pederson, Frank
Perkins, Frank S.
Poppe, Calus F.
Peck, Ralph Frank
Porter, Guy Matthew
Paulsen, Louis Peter
Popa, Frank

Pyeatte, Elmer Crozin
 Pierce, Lawrence Pillsbury
 Parkert, Albert Charles
 Porter, Charles Earl
 Price, Cratton M.
 Pott, Henry
 Pocholnke, Nick
 Peters, Alfred Wesley
 Peters, Oswald
 Peterson, Paul Kline
 Pott, Edmond John
 Pollock, Joe Irving
 Phillips, Frank Leslie
 Quigley, Ralph Harrison
 Rowe, William Raymond
 Rasmussen, Fred L.
 Rasmussen, Alfred
 Rasmussen, John
 Realph, Harvey W.
 Rose, Alex
 Ruppert, Frank
 Rowe, Arthur Morton
 Robinson, Russell Alex
 Rink, Arnold
 Royer, Charles W.
 Rasmussen, Louis P.
 Royer, Milo C.
 Ralfs, Charlie
 Rohn, Henry Edward
 Reynolds, Cassius J.
 Richards, Henry Herman
 Rubinek, La Verne F.
 Rapp, Herman
 Rosech, Geo. F.
 Rasmussen, Victor
 Remm, Wm.
 Robertson, Guy A.
 Ruzicka, William Frank
 Robertson, Earlyon Howard
 Ruwe, Elmer C. H.
 Reichman, Walter Chris
 Reitz, James Donald
 Robertson, Anson J.
 Ronin, Charles Ehnes
 Robinson, Clay Aaron
 Robins, Edward John
 Robinson, Sumner Willis
 Rogers, Roy Elmer
 Roberts, Earl Joe
 Randall, Albert Ray
 Robinson, Jay Miles
 Ray, Logan
 Rasmussen, William Parrott
 Rose, Alex
 Risor, Elmer William
 Ruff, Emil J. D.
 Rump, Harry Frank
 Realph, William Bryan
 Roush, Harry Albert
 Roesch, Leo Joe
 Reninger, John Albert
 Spath, Ray Louis
 Smith, Jo T.
 Stark, Ben Bowden
 Shanahan, William Lyle
 Schurman, Teobold H.
 Shanahan, Leo John
 Singer, Anton John
 Smith, Fred L.
 Snover, Walter
 Schreck, Peter
 Stenvers, Albert J. D.
 Srb, Gilbert Joseph
 Smith, W. F.
 Stubbert, William Fred
 Schultz, Carl Henry
 Schneider, Charles
 Scott, Charles Francis
 Schellenberg, August C.
 Schellenberg, Henry C.
 Steen, Raymond Alfred
 Sorensen, John Mark
 Srb, Hugo Frank
 Shull, Clair Alex
 Stevens, Harry Everett
 Schreier, Clifford C.
 Slater, Dwight Edward
 Sears, Alfred Richard
 Scharf, Albert
 Steil, Henry Adolph
 Seger, George D.
 Siders, Cyrus W.
 Tillman, John Wm.
 Tiebler, Jr., Henry
 Tillma, Arthur C.
 Turner, Harvey Ray
 Tienken, Charles
 Timpe, Conrad Christoful
 Timpe, Fritz Arthur
 Tiedeman, Fred C.
 Thomas, Wm. Earl
 Theede, Harry George
 Tedford, Lee Brainard
 Tillman, Cornelius Herman
 Temple, Thomas
 Torrey, David Hjalmar
 Tatman, Earl Ray
 Thomas, Cecil Charles, Col.
 Thomas, Gordon R., Col.
 Soll, Ludwig L.

Softley, Bruce J.
Scott, Rex L.
Shaffer, John A.
Smith, Irwin F.
Steen, Earl C.
Stewart, Augustus L.
Smith, Charles Herald
Schmale, Carl Henry
Spath, Arthur W.
Sorby, Lloyd A.
Snyder, Roy Hamilton
Studnicka, William Cielie
Schlote, Wilmer Herman
Struve, Fred John H.
Sellhorst, Joe
Strube, Fred F.
Sager, James William
Suliantrop, Alois
Steil, John Ernst
Schmoldt, August
Sinamark, George
Soukigian, Hagop
Strand, Barton
Stuck, Charles I.
Stewart, James J.
Spotts, Earl K.
Sempeck, Frank James
Spangler, Louis
Schroeder, Edwin Wm.
Slack, Henry Delno
Smith, Con
Seger, George D.
Stark, Elmer Emil
Sterner, Lloyd Henry
Schulz, Emil J.
Swanson, Charlie
Sorenson, Marnius
Scott, Forest Alexander
Stecker, Joe James
Sturbaum, Joe L.
Strand, Walter Theodore
Schlomer, Wm. G. F.
Saunders, Harry B.
Shomshor, Edwin David
Stell, Irvin Clark
Sheeley, Ira
Sander, Wm. E.
Schmidt, Wm. Fred
Stecker, Arnold C.
Swartz, Arthur Franklin
Swanson, Kristian Wm.
Smith, Floyd A.
Stock, Louis Andrew
Softley, Arthur
Sandberg, Henry
Stone, Clarence Lewis
Sorby, Roy Seal
Snyder, Vival Dow
Schwab, Robert Louis
Strube, Will
Schurman, Harry Herman
Schwanke, Herman John
Softley, Earl Henry
Simmerman, Lenel Ely
Steinkoff, Lester D.
Sours, Hobert
Spangler, Howard Andrew
Stenvers, Wm. Henry
Spangler, Mason T.
Stevenson, Arthur
Schwab, Elmer
Saeger, Paul John A.
Schumacher, Wm. L.
Schoeneck, Hilbert
Salroth, Iver
Scott, Everett Floyd
Siggers, Phillip Harold
Thompson, Thomas Fred
Till, Rex
Tesar, John Jim
Totten, Wm. V.
Thomas, James, Rector, Col.
Timpe, Somer Eugene
Thornton, Jesse E.
Tiemken, Gustav H. A.
Theede, Clarence Irving
Thom, Wm. Harris
Trumbull, Drayton Le Roy
Thomsen, Carl
Uehling, Arthur L.
Ulcek, Joseph
Uehling, Harold Theo.
Vrba, Charles
Valk, John
Vitek, Emil
Van Anda, Ralph Woodward
Van Cleave, Leslie D.
Van Loo, John
Vrba, Adolph Frank
Villias, Geo. J.
Walraven, Edwin Wilder
Waterman, Albert Herman
Walter, Joseph
Wallien, Carl Rudolph
Weist, Karl Anton
Williams, Edward J. J.
Wiegle, Herman A.
Wagner, Ralph Roy
Warner, Louis
Winkleman, Ernest Fred

Wegner, Jr., Wm.	Weihe, Wm. Gottlob
Witt, Rudolph	Webb, Henry C.
Wormwood, Jay	Weimann, Oscar J.
Ward, Con Luther	Wallick, Gilbert Roy
With, Holger Pedersen	Whitford, Arthur John
Winther, Holgar Carl	Whitton, George
Woslager, Tony J.	Whitcomb, Leslie L.
Wedegren, Earl Irving	Wheaton, Frank G.
Whitford, Le Roy Earl	Ward, John Wesley
Wright, Victor Paul	Wilson, Leo
Wright, James H.	Weisberger, Otto Lawrence
Westphalen, Paul Henry	Waterman, John Herman
Wintersteen, Glen Dale	Wegner, Oscar B.
Wolf, Fred H. R.	Wilch, Charles C.
Willeberg, Einer Johannes	Wentzel, Larry Adam
Wheelock, Leon	Watt, Arthur
Wise, Floyd Baker	Wecke, Joseph F.
Weidner, Leo N.	Wertz, Benjamin H.
Weldon, Floyd	Yoder, Jacob Samuel
Woods, Perry	Yoder, Jay Arnold
Wickert, Albert	Young, William James
Wolff, James C.	Yates, Jr., Walter S.
Weidner, Wm. L.	Zwickey, Harry John
Warner, Joe Andrew	Zemlicka, Clarence
Wintersteen, James Horace	Zuber, Herman
Wright, Carl Thomas	Zevitz, Sam
Winn, Victor	Zellers, Henry Clayton
Wells, Jess C.	Zellers, Monroe Theodore

FINANCIAL AID IN DODGE COUNTY

Besides the brave sons who left the homes and firesides of this county, to aid in putting down the World war, the loyal citizens in each township of the county freely gave of their wealth, and some even at quite a sacrifice. The following shows totals for War bonds War stamps and Red Cross funds. The county and every section of it, raised more than their quota, and a handsome balance was left on hand to be used as needs may require.

These contributions included the noble work of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, War Camp service, the Salvation Army, Jewish Welfare, the A. L. A., Armenian, Jewish Relief and Near East work, in all amounting to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

Of the five Liberty loans in Dodge County the records show:

Loan	Quota	Subscription
First Liberty loan.....	\$524,000	\$568,000
Second Liberty loan.....	873,300	868,150
Third Liberty loan.....	762,800	1,375,250
Fourth Liberty loan.....	1,670,000	1,740,650
Victory Liberty loan.....	1,353,800	1,489,050
<hr/> Totals	\$5,183,900	\$6,041,100

The records of the sales of War Savings securities for Dodge County show the following:

To November 1, 1918, \$611,295. Quota for 1918, \$442,900. January 1 to August 31, 1919, \$18,915. No quota assigned for 1919.

The State of Nebraska gave for the above savings securities \$27,450,189.85, or \$21.18 per capita up to December 31, 1918.

RED CROSS WORK FOR COUNTY OF DODGE

Dodge Chapter of American Red Cross was called upon to raise, in the various "drives," approximately \$125,000, but so eager were the good people of this county to aid the Red Cross interests, that it was found when the war ended that this county had *nearly doubled* its quota—a record to be proud of by the present and future generations who may look back and read this record in the annals of the county.

CHAPTER XXI

CRIMES COMMITTED

Dodge County has never been the scene of a large number of revolting crimes within its history of more than threescore years, however, it has had some cases which should be recorded in this volume.

FIRST MURDER

The first murder known to have been committed in Dodge County occurred at Fremont in 1870. A man named Smith, proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel, was engaged in a dispute over a ten cent feed bill, at the hotel barn, with one Gallon of West Point. Blows followed and Smith picked up a neckyoke and struck Gallon over the head killing him almost instantly. He was arrested, tried and convicted of murder in the second degree and received a sentence of ten years in the penitentiary. But before he was taken to prison he made his escape. Al Norris was jailer at that date and he was induced to enter the cell to play "razzle dazzle" and when there was overpowered, the convict escaped and was never afterward seen.

H. B. Hoxie was prosecutor and Z. Shed, attorney for the defense.

ST. LOUIS WIFE POISONING CASE

In 1877 what was known as the "Dr. St. Louis wife poisoning case" blotted the fair pages of Dodge County court records. This was a premeditated murder of a man's bosom companion—his wife. The case appeared in court October 12, 1877. N. H. Bell and John Corrigan appeared for the murderer. Marlow and Munger were appointed to look after the State's cause. The case lasted a week and finally went to the jury who could not agree. The following March the case was tried in Saunders County. He was convicted, sentenced to be hanged and on the morning of the date he was to have been executed, he hearing the sheriff's footsteps to take him to the scaffold deliberately pulled a revolver he had hidden about his person and shot himself, so that two days later he died, thus ended the miserable existence of a wife-murderer and suicide.

PULSIFER MURDER CASE

By all odds the darkest, bloodiest and most uncalled for murder in all Nebraska up to 1892, happened in Dodge County near the little Village of Crowell in 1889 and is known as the "Pulsifer Murder" for which Charles Shepherd and Christ Furst, two very young men finally suffered the death penalty at Fremont, December 10, 1889, at 6:30 P. M. Carl C. Pulsifer, a grain buyer at Crowell and a time honored citizen was murdered by two of his neighborhood young men. He lived on his large farm three-fourths of a mile from Crowell and used generally to walk to and from his business place to his home; the part of the way he went over a private pathway and the remainder on the F. E. & M. V. railway tracks. It was at the point where he left the track to go cross-lots where the foul deed was committed. He was found shot

through the heart, his person and pockets rifled while his assassins had fled. When he was yet on the grade his youngest son, John Pulsifer, who had gone on home in advance of his father a few minutes, saw him coming home and noticed he had a lantern. In a few minutes the boy heard three shots from a revolver whereupon he at once started in the direction of the light which soon disappeared. He pressed on speedily and upon nearing the fatal spot tried to find his father but could not. Finally he came to the narrow culvert along the track and there found his father lying on the grade with his feet in the ditch. The shattered lantern lay by him. He lay upon his back, his white face looking up into the starry heavens. The boy approached the silent form (his heart in his throat) his face blanched and a sickening dread came over him. He had already divined what had happened. He touched the form before him. He called, "father, father," there was no reply, no movement, no sign of life! He felt his father's pulse but there was no response. He placed his hand over his father's heart and there found blood flowing freely. Then he knew his father was dead.

Alarm was given—the murdered man was an honored member of the Masonic Order and a bright light in that order. He was beloved by all, and in less than two hours hundreds of men were on the alert to detect the murderers. The second day after the murder the guilty men were captured, one in the morning and the other later on. They had fled and been at various villages and stopped at a farm house for bread but finally returned to their old hiding place along the Elkhorn, in the neighborhood in which they lived. They were brought to Fremont. The same night they confessed their guilt to a newspaper reporter of the Fremont Tribune. They wanted to rob the man but only got a few dollars and claimed a sort of self-defense in shooting, while one of them played the insanity dodge for a time.

County Attorney Loomis and Frick and Dollzal prosecuted in Shepherd's case and T. M. Franse of West Point defended.

Fifty men were called before a petit jury could be obtained. The twelve were: John Farrell, J. A. Kline, Joel Forbes, John Thomson, Dan Monday, Reuben Collins, James Stover, Henry Weisenbach, James Killeen, James Jacobson, John Braman, Henry Hartford.

The trial lasted a week and resulted in a verdict of "murder in the first degree." Judge Marshall tried this case.

Furst's trial came on before the same judge, C. Hollenbeck appearing for the defense. The trial lasted three days longer than Shepherd's and resulted in the same verdict. The jury consisted of W. E. Hawkins, G. W. L. Mitchell, James Morgan, Joseph Pollock, J. H. Blaver, W. H. Brunner, Henry Mayer, Nels Martinson, J. E. Jones, J. H. Caldwell, D. A. Boggs, George Caskey.

These cases went before the Supreme Court and were sustained. Then Governor Thayer was implored to save them from hanging—all was done that could be done in fairness and justice, but it was determined they must hang and June 9, 1891, they were executed within the jail at Fremont, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock. The militia was on guard.

A very striking coincidence in this connection was the singular fact that the murdered man was near neighbor and "homesteader," living close to Shepherd's parents prior to the birth of the man who finally took his life. When Charles E. Shepherd's mother was about to deliver him in childbirth, Mr. Pulsifer volunteered to ride against an angry

storm in cold weather for a physician at West Point. Then to think that twenty-one years later, this same boy should take the life of one who had aided in bringing him into the world.

FAMOUS CRIMINAL CASES

Dodge County has furnished its quota of celebrated criminal cases to the history of the State of Nebraska. It would be utterly impossible in the "space" allowed to give a complete review of the noted tragedies and dramas that have been enacted in Dodge County criminal courts within the past fifty years, and, of necessity, the writer must limit the recital to a brief narrative of the facts and with but a passing casual glance at the principal actors. Judicial investigation with a view of discovery and punishment of crime as they involve the highest interests of society, always attracts an attention commensurate with their importance.

The law provides for the preservation of the testimony and the records, and the public press chronicles the "side lights" but it is the actual witnesses who are thrilled by these dramas of real life. There is nothing in the Grecian drama that surpasses the touching pathos in the trial of men and women charged with the graver offenses of the law.

We enter the halls of justice; we behold the learned judge and watch the solemn faces of the jury, the final arbiters of whether the prisoner shall again breathe the blessed air of freedom or suffer the extreme and dire penalties of the law. We see the pale-faced prisoner; behold the anguish of relatives and friends; hear the dramatic, eloquent appeals of famous lawyers fighting on one side for conviction; on the other for acquittal, and then your heart stops beating when the clerk starts to read the verdict which sends the accused back to wife or child or mother or friends, or to the scaffold or the dark and dreary walls of prison cells.

In every murder case, the sociologist, the criminologist, the judge and the lawyer—in fact, every man or woman who attends the trial, will find open before him many new phases of human life.

The first celebrated murder case tried in Dodge County was the case of Dr. George J. St. Louis, charged with murdering his wife by wilfully and maliciously administering to her arsenic. There remain but few official records and nearly all of the witnesses and actors have passed on.

The crime was committed on the 30th day of May, 1877, and on the 2d day of June, 1877, a coroner's inquest was held in Fremont by Doctor Crabbs, the medical partner of Doctor St. Louis. George Blanchard, Peter Denny, E. C. Usher, D. B. Short, M. H. Hinman and George Marshall composed the coroner's jury. The preliminary hearing was held before L. M. Keene, county judge, and the defendant was bound over to the District Court for trial. The defendant was tried in the District Court of Dodge County in the months of January and February, 1878. The prosecution was conducted by N. B. Reese, district attorney and later chief justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska, who was assisted by Marlow & Munger of Fremont. N. H. Bell of Fremont, John Carrigan of Blair and Charles Brown of Omaha defended St. Louis. He was put on trial in Dodge County on the 5th day of February, 1878, but the jury did not agree upon a verdict and was discharged. The case was then taken upon a change of venue to Saunders County, where a trial was had in April, 1878. A verdict of murder in the first degree was returned against St. Louis and the date of execution of the sentence of death fixed for September

20, 1878. The judgment of the District Court was affirmed and the execution of the sentence was suspended until Friday, April 18, 1879. The late E. F. Gray and W. A. Gray prosecuted the appeal for the defendant to the Supreme Court. A postmortem examination was conducted upon the body of Mrs. St. Louis and a subsequent analysis by a most able and accomplished chemist and toxicologist, Professor Haines of the Rush Medical College, Chicago, who discovered over nine grains of arsenic in the stomach of the dead woman. The late N. H. Bell, one of the most celebrated criminal lawyers of the West, conducted the cross-examination of Doctor Haines and the thrilling contest between these two brilliant men is well remembered by many Fremont citizens, namely: John Hauser, L. D. Richards, John Goff and Nat Smails.

On the evening of the 17th day of April, 1879, John Hauser of Fremont was sent over to the county jail by Smails and Weedin, editors of the Fremont Daily Herald, to secure from Doctor St. Louis tickets to the execution which was to be held in Wahoo the following day. Doctor St. Louis refused to give tickets to the editors, stating that he thought they had not treated him fairly, but was willing to give Mr. Hauser a ticket, which Mr. Hauser politely refused to accept. Robert Gregg, then sheriff, insisted upon Mr. Hauser remaining over night with the condemned man. Mr. Hauser distinctly remembers every incident that occurred during that fateful night. He described vividly how nervous Doctor St. Louis appeared and about midnight insisted on Mr. Hauser sending for his sister-in-law, Mrs. John B. Geitzen. Mr. Hauser complied with the request and brought Mrs. Geitzen to the jail. About half past 1 o'clock on the morning of April 19th, Mr. Gregg came in and told Doctor St. Louis that he was ready to start for Wahoo and for the doctor "to put his boots on." St. Louis said to the sheriff: "Must I go now?" and walked into his cell, secured a pistol that he had secreted, and shot himself in the head. He lingered from that time until Sunday noon following, when he died. Hundreds of Fremont citizens in the meantime viewed the stricken criminal.

The case of Charles C. Carleton, charged with the murder of August Gothman, on the 8th day of June, 1893, near Ames, Nebraska, was tried in the District Court in the month of September, 1893. Gothman was shot three times in the head. The prosecution was conducted by Conrad Hollenbeck, then county attorney, assisted by George L. Loomis, and Carleton was defended by the law firm of Frick & Dolezal. Carleton was convicted and sentenced to be executed. Appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and the judgment affirmed. However, sentence of death was commuted to life imprisonment and thereafter Carleton was pardoned. This ended one of the most bitterly contested criminal cases ever tried in the State of Nebraska.

State against William Rhea, et al. On the 4th day of January, 1901, Edward Gardner, William Darrow and William Rhea walked into the saloon of Herman Zahn of Snyder, Nebraska, and shot him to death, robbed his body, lined up the customers, rifled the safe and engaged in a pitched battle with the marshal and citizens who were attracted by the shooting. John M. Kreader, then sheriff of Dodge County, with a posse composed of hundreds of Dodge County citizens armed with all sorts of weapons from heavy bored rifles to pitchforks and with the aid of bloodhounds, took up the trail. The following morning, Rhea and Gardner were "flushed" out of a haystack near Crowell, Nebraska. Gardner surrendered, but Rhea made a running fight for several miles and only gave up when painfully wounded.

These three men were placed on trial in February, 1901. Rhea and Gardner were defended by Harry Maynard, now of Roswell, New Mexico, and the late E. F. Gray. Both defendants were found guilty and Rhea sentenced to be executed. Gardner was sentenced to life and William Darrow, who was defended by Judge F. W. Button and the writer, was acquitted. The late Robert Stinson and Judge Grant Martin, now of Lincoln, conducted the prosecution. Rhea was executed at the penitentiary after the Supreme Court had affirmed the judgment of the District Court. Judge James A. Grimison of Schuyler, Nebraska, presided at the trial. Gardner has since been pardoned.

State against Louis Rogers. During the month of August, 1911, the dead body of an infant child was found in a box car at Colon, Nebraska, with a towel tightly twisted around its throat and the ends forced into the mouth. Death was caused by suffocation. "M R" was the laundry mark on the towel. Suspicion lead to the arrest of Louis Rogers, an itinerant vaudeville actor, who was in Fremont at the time, and arrest followed. The late Otto Bauman, commonly known as "Dutch," then sheriff, and the present sheriff, who was then deputy sheriff, William C. Condit and the writer, then county attorney, addressed communications to over 200 police officials of the principal cities of the United States to discover whose laundry mark was upon the towel. After weeks of investigation it was discovered that Martha Rodier of Detroit, Michigan, the proprietor of a boarding house catering to vaudeville people, was the owner of the towel found around the baby's neck. She was well acquainted with the defendant, who had been a guest at her place but a short time before coming to Fremont. This, with other evidence, led to the conviction of Rogers. His defense was conducted by Judge F. W. Button, now one of the district judges of Dodge County, and Frank Dolezal. The conviction was sustained by the Supreme Court and Rogers after serving a short sentence, was paroled.

State against George Osborne. On the morning of August 12, 1910, the dead body of John Hoctor was found lying in the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad yards at Fremont. His head had been crushed by a bridge bolt that lay near the body. On a pile of lumber was a bottle partly filled with alcohol. During the night there had been a heavy rain and the label on the bottle had been washed off and the wind had blown this "evidence" against an adjoining pile of lumber. On the label was written the figures 90, being the alcoholic "proof" of the liquor. A bartender in the Baltimore saloon identified the label and recalled having sold a bottle of alcohol to George Osborne of Blair, Nebraska, the evening before. This evidence furnished the first "clew" which led to the arrest of Osborne, who confessed to the murder. Osborne was placed on trial during the following November term of the District Court. His defense was conducted by Harry Maynard of the firm of Loomis & Maynard and John W. Graham, now located at Sidney, Nebraska. The defense was insanity. A dramatic incident occurred during the closing argument. Osborne, becoming enraged, threw a book at the prosecuting attorney, which landed with terrific force in the jury box. Osborne was overpowered after a violent struggle and went into an epileptic fit. The court was compelled to adjourn the case for two days before finally submitting the same to the jury. Osborne was convicted of murder in the second degree, sentenced to serve fifteen years in the penitentiary, escaped, was convicted of highway robbery in Missouri, again escaped, and is now a fugitive from justice.

There have been other brutal murders and noted criminal trials within the past fifty years of Dodge County's history, but good citizens, friends and relatives of victims and author of these crimes reside within our midst and in consideration of their feelings, the writer has concluded it would be unfair and unnecessary to revive the sad memories of these lamentable tragedies.

J. C. COOK,
Dodge County Attorney.

CHAPTER XXII

THE CITY OF FREMONT

THE NAME—ORIGIN OF CITY—ENTERING LAND FOR PLAT—MONEY SCARCE—FIRST HOUSES—LOTS DONATED—FIRST EVENTS—CITY'S DEVELOPMENTS—MANUFACTURING IN 1886—POSTOFFICE—CIVIC SOCIETIES—MUNICIPAL HISTORY—INDEBTEDNESS—CITY HALL—WATER WORKS—CITY BUILDING—ORPHAN'S HOME—CLASSIFIED BUSINESS IN 1892—BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1920—REMINISCENCES—INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS—COMMERCIAL CLUB—POPULATION—THE CITY LIBRARY.

The City of Fremont has a history running back to 1856—sixty-four years ago. This was soon after the great "Pathfinder" Gen. John C. Fremont passed through the country, a little to the south of the present city. That was during the Fremont-Buchanan presidential campaign in which the latter was successful, but in honor of the first republican standard-bearer of the newly formed republican party, the founders of their embryo city named it "Fremont." Military Avenue was the only highway to the place. Fremont was made the county seat of Dodge County in 1860.

ORIGIN OF FREMONT

August, 1856, the first stakes were driven, and an association known as Pinney-Barnard & Co.'s Town Plat Company began its operations, but as the political campaign advanced that autumn, a town had been named Buchanan over in Colfax County (now known as Schuyler) and hence it occurred to the town site members that they should change their company name to "The Fremont Town Company" which they did at a meeting held at the home of Seth P. Marvin, September 23, 1856.

The first stakes were really driven on August 23, 1856, but the full boundaries were not fixed until the 26th of that month. On the morning of that day a town company was organized under the name of Pinney, Barnard & Company, consisting of George M. Pinney, James G. Smith, Robert Moorland, Robert Kittle, John A. Kountz, Seth P. Marvin, and E. H. Barnard. The territory west of the guide meridian had not yet been surveyed, but a military road had recently been located from Omaha to Fort Kearney, so the company adopted this road as their base line and thus laid out Fremont. Military Avenue of today marks the exact line of that road through the city. It varies only a fraction more than three degrees from a true east and west line, as proven by later surveys.

The first platting covered one mile square and was bounded by what is now known as Irving Avenue on the east, and on the south by First Street on which Lincoln Highway now enters the city from the east. This plat was later laid off into lots and blocks, and then parceled out to the proprietors in shares of nine lots each, except 100 lots reserved and set apart, to be used in building up the town. The record reads: "About eighteen lots for church and school buildings; about the same number for commercial purposes; the building of a saw mill, etc., and seventy lots set apart for residences."

By reason of the financial panic of 1857, the town site owners were unable when the government land was offered for sale, to pay for the full section they had "claimed" and platted the town on, so they contented themselves with one-half of the tract or 320 acres. This was in 1859 and the village contained twenty-seven houses.

So scarce was money in the late fifties that the town site men sold Judge E. Wakeley, of Omaha, town lots at *75 cents each*, in order to pay up what they had borrowed to purchase the land on which they had platted Fremont.

The proprietors advertised to the world that they would donate two town lots in the new place to any person building a hewn log house 16 by 20 feet, a story and one-half high with suitable doors and windows and to have a board floor and shingled roof. They would also throw in logs in the tree, and fire wood for one year. In a few months Fremont had come to be a hamlet of thirteen houses and a blacksmith's shop.

All historians agree that the first human habitation at Fremont, as made by white men, was the one built in 1856 by E. H. Barnard and John A. Kountz. It was constructed of poles from the islands, thatched with prairie grass. It stood on the site of the present Congregational Church.

The second house was built by Robert Kittle late in the autumn of 1856. He purchased a lot of hewed logs of a man a few miles west of Fremont, and gathered them together at the corner of what is now known as Broad Street and Military Avenue. The roof of this pioneer cabin was excellent, as it was formed of red cedar shingles shaved by Mr. Kittle from logs which he floated down the Platte River. Such trees were found growing on the bluffs to the southwest of town.

Later, little cabins began to appear eastward, on either side of Military Avenue, and business began to grow in connection with the commercial enterprises of James G. and J. Towner Smith, who first did the merchandising in a dugout, and afterward in a log store.

FIRST EVENTS

There usually clusters around the first and important events in the settlement of any township or village, much of unusual interest, and because of this universal sentiment, the following paragraphs of "first events" is inserted in this chapter at this point, before going on with the development of the city to be:

The first house was built by Robert Kittle in the fall of 1856.

The first habitation (the pole and grass shack) was made by Messrs. Barnard and Kountz, the same autumn.

The first child born was Alice Flor, in the fall of 1857.

The first male child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kittle; his name was Fred and the date of his birth was March 28, 1858; he died September 26, 1890.

The earliest marriage in Fremont was Luther Wilson and Miss Eliza Turner, August 23, 1858.

The first death was that of Seth P. Marvin, who was drowned two miles west of town. The next to die was Father Nathan Heaton, October, 1857.

The first National Independence Day celebration was held July 4, 1857. A flag was improvised from goods purchased in New York and brought west by Robert Kittle. It floated from a cedar Liberty pole seventy feet high, "and was planted in loyalty on Military Avenue," the pioneers say.

Robert Kittle was first to sell general merchandise in Fremont. This stock was a small assortment brought from Buffalo, New York, by Mr. Kittle.

The first railroad service was commenced here in the fall of 1866, over the Union Pacific line.

The first newspaper in Fremont and the county was the Fremont Tribune, established July 24, 1868, and is still the leading paper in Eastern Nebraska.

The first bank was established by "E. H. Rogers & Co." in 1866 and from it came the First National Bank of today.

The first family to "keep house" in Fremont was that of Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, who arrived in October, 1856, and occupied the Robert Kittle house.

The first postoffice was established in 1857, with James G. Smith as postmaster.

The pioneer blacksmith was John Hormel, who had a shop where now stands the Gumpert Department Store on Main Street.

POSTOFFICE HISTORY OF FREMONT

One of the best indexes of any community as to its intelligence and prosperity is to know its postal history. The postal service here has always been large and excellent, even from pioneer days. Fremont was granted a postoffice in the month of June, 1857. That was under James Buchanan's democratic administration. Gen. John C. Fremont being a candidate for the presidency during that campaign and the petitioners for a "Fremont" postoffice being republican, it has been said this fact retarded the establishment of the postoffice several months. At least the long delays finally ended and the office was established with James G. Smith as its first postmaster. No mail route had as yet been established west from Omaha, and patrons of Fremont office were compelled for a time to carry their own mail that distance. In November, 1857, Postmaster Smith visited the East and during his absence, Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, the pioneer Congregational minister, served as his deputy. In December, 1858, Mr. Smith pressed by other cares, resigned in favor of Rev. Isaac Heaton, who held the office until December, 1866—clear through the Civil war period, and longer. The history of this office was given in interviews with that grand old man, Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, in the early nineties, hence may be relied upon as correct. He stated that during January, 1868, his residence was burned, with all the papers, books, etc., he had. But upon memory, he stated that in 1862, about 600 letters were mailed each quarter. And in the rush of gold seekers to Colorado, there were 1,600 mailed. During 1864 over \$7,000 were mailed through the Fremont office in drafts and money.

July, 1858, the Overland Stage Line started en route from Omaha to California, via Fremont, after which mail was received each week at three o'clock in the morning. December, 1866, Benjamin Turner was made postmaster, the office then being kept on Main Street. Upon U. S. Grant's election as President, the office was virtually tendered to Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, again in these words: "As you have kept the office so long when you had to rise in the night six times each week to open and close mail sacks, would you like to resume the office?" From the fact that Rev. Isaac E. Heaton did not believe it necessary to transact postal business on the Sabbath day, he declined the re-appointment at Grant's hands.

Fremont became a Money Order office in July, 1869. The first order was issued July 14, to Thomas Campbell, on Kenosha, Wisconsin, for the sum of \$15. There had been issued 47,975 money orders up to 1892; also 16,866 postal notes. The latter system only obtained a few years, since which time money has been transmitted by Money Order altogether, the Postal Note having been done away with. Only sums of less than five dollars were sent by the Postal Note system. In 1891 Fremont's money order business was the third largest in Nebraska and amounted to \$52,278.78. As far back as 1892 there were fifteen tons of local newspapers sent from this postoffice. Fremont commenced its free delivery system July, 1888, when four carriers were engaged and twenty-six mails were received each twenty-four hours.

The Fremont office lost by fire, flood and burglary but little in all of its history. Postmaster Paine was robbed twice and sent one



POSTOFFICE, FREMONT

man "over the road" for a term of years, while Postmaster Murray was robbed of a package of registered letters; he also sent one man to U. S. Penitentiary.

The original government postoffice building was erected about 1895 at a cost of \$60,000; its location is the corner of Sixth and Broad streets. It was remodeled in 1910 and made about twice its former size; this rebuilding cost \$50,000. During the construction period of the second building the business of the postoffice was carried on in the Morse Block. The work of re-construction was finished and the office again opened up December 1, 1911.

The following is a correct list of regular postmasters at Fremont: James G. Smith, from June, 1857, to December, 1858; Isaac E. Heaton, from December, 1858 to December, 1866; Benjamin Turner, from December, 1866, to December, 1869; Charles A. Smith, from December, 1869, to September, 1870; H. O. Paine, from September, 1870, to October, 1885; James Murray, from October, 1885, to September, 1889; Henry G. Wolcott, from September, 1889, to October, 1893; Thomas Carroll, from November, 1893, to November 13, 1897; Ross L. Hammond, from November 14, 1897, to February 28, 1903; Daniel Swanson, from March, 1903, to March 31, 1911; B. W. Reynolds, from April 1,

1911, to March 31, 1915; Nathaniel W. Smails, from April 1, 1915, to February 28, 1919; Frank W. Fuhlrodt, acting postmaster March 1, 1919, to May 10, 1920; Frank W. Fuhlrodt by appointment as postmaster confirmed May 11, 1920.

Hence it will be seen that Fremont has had fourteen postmasters in the sixty-three years of its history, making four years and a half average term.

There are now four rural delivery routes extending out from Fremont. The present rural mail carriers are: Orval R. Dixon (temporary); George Keeler (temporary); Frank A. Chilcoat and Gordon Wallace.

The names of the city carriers and substitutes are: Edward Benton, Harry W. Buffington, Fred M. Davis, Viggo A. Jensen, Frederick Moller, Fred W. Moller, Gerald A. Moller, Charles W. Mulloy, Sumner W. Robinson and Frank J. Sasse. Also Adelbert H. Schick (temporary substitute).

The total amount of business transacted during the last fiscal year was \$73,593.44—this means from July, 1918, to July, 1919.

Amount on hand in savings department, \$1,502.

At the date of June, 1920, there are postoffices in Dodge County as follows: Fremont, Ames, Crowell, Dodge, Hooper, Nickerson, North Bend, Scribner, Snyder, Uehling, Winslow.

SECRET SOCIETIES

Fremont is well supplied with secret societies—the list at a recent date was as follows: Ancient Order of United Workmen; Benevolent Protective Order of Elks; Brotherhood of American Yeomen; Danish Brotherhood; Danish Sisterhood; Fraternal Order of Eagles; Fraternal Union of America; Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Knights of Columbus; Knights of Pythias; Knights of Maccabees; Knights and Ladies of Security; Masonic Order; Modern Woodmen of America; Mystic Workers of the World; Royal Highlanders; Royal Neighbors; Tribe of Ben Hur; United Commercial Travelers; Woodmen of the World.

Blanks were sent to the above orders, and wherever they were responded to, a brief history of such society appears in the general chapter on lodges in this work.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Fremont became an incorporated village May 24, 1859. The first board of trustees were as follows: Theron Nye, chairman; R. W. Hazen, clerk; and E. H. Barnard, treasurer; James G. Smith, E. H. Rogers, and J. F. Reynolds. The first record book was very small and the bill for it was 40 cents. In the June meeting, 1859, it was resolved to make a loan of \$400 for which 30 per cent interest was paid annually, the same to run one, two or three years as desired by the village. The minutes of the September meeting were signed by James G. Smith, secretary pro tem.

In May, 1861, the trustees engaged H. A. Pierce to break up the land where now the beautiful city park is located, allowing him \$12 for the work. Bids were also received for fencing the park.

In 1865, at the September session the trustees appropriated \$68.58 for the purchase of town lots, to be held and used for courthouse and county building purposes.



HON. J. C. CLELAND
FOR SEVERAL YEARS MAYOR OF FREMONT,
AND FATHER OF THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Such routine work constituted the chief work of the board until 1871 when Fremont became a "city" of the second class. The following will show the principal elective city officers from 1871 to the present date—1920:

1871—Theron Nye, mayor; William Martin, clerk.
1872—Theron Nye, mayor; I. C. Crabbs, police judge.
1873—A. P. Hopkins, mayor; E. H. Barnard, police judge; William Martin, clerk.
1874—John E. Shervin, mayor; C. E. Usher, police judge; James Davis, Clerk.
1875—John E. Shervin, mayor; C. E. Usher, police judge; Check H. Toncray, clerk.
1876—W. A. Marlow, mayor; William Martin, police judge; Check H. Toncray, clerk.
1877—W. A. Marlow, mayor; Check H. Toncray, police judge; J. W. Goff, clerk.
1878—N. H. Bell, mayor; William Martin, police judge; Fred De LaMatyr, clerk.
1879—L. D. Richards, mayor; William Martin, police judge; Fred De LaMatyr, clerk.
1880—L. D. Richards, mayor; James Huff, police judge; J. W. Goff, clerk.
1881—Charles Sang, mayor; James Huff, police judge; Peter Brun, clerk.
1882—Charles Sang, mayor; George F. Looschen, clerk.
1883—J. C. Cleland, mayor; W. H. Ely, police judge; George F. Looschen, clerk.
1884—J. C. Cleland, mayor; F. W. Vaughan, police judge; J. H. Wheeler, clerk.
1885—C. Christensen, mayor; F. F. Kuen, police judge; F. M. Claflin, clerk.
1886—B. F. Stouffer, mayor; F. F. Kuen, police judge; G. W. Sellers, clerk.
1887—B. F. Stouffer, mayor; F. F. Kuen, police judge; A. W. Forbes, clerk.
1889—J. E. Shervin, mayor; A. W. Forbes, police judge; C. L. Williams, clerk.
1891—William Fried, mayor; C. L. Williams, police judge; E. D. Percy, clerk.
1893-94—William Fried, mayor; L. C. Holmes, police judge; E. D. Percy, clerk.
1895-96—William Fried, mayor; L. C. Holmes, police judge; W. J. Bullock, clerk.
1897-98—William Fried, mayor; Charles H. Coman, police judge; John Hyatt, clerk.
1899-1900—Fred W. Vaughn, mayor; Charles Coman, police judge; John Hyatt, clerk.
1901-02—Wallace Wilson, Mayor; Charles Coman, police judge; John Hyatt, clerk.
1903-04—Geo. F. Wolz, mayor; J. C. Cook, police judge; S. F. Stiles, clerk.
1905-06—Geo. F. Wolz, mayor; J. C. Cook, police judge; S. F. Stiles, clerk.
1907-08—Geo. F. Wolz, mayor; J. C. Cook, police judge; S. F. Stiles, clerk.

1909-10—Fred L. Burrell, mayor; Fred C. Laird, police judge; S. F. Stiles, clerk.

1911-12—Geo. F. Wolz, mayor; Fred C. Laird, police judge; S. F. Stiles, clerk.

1913-14—R. M. Herre, mayor; Fred C. Laird, police judge; C. R. De LaMatyr, clerk.

1915-16—George A. Murrell, mayor; A. K. Dane, police judge; C. R. De LaMatyr, clerk.

1917-18—W. C. Wiley, mayor; A. K. Dane, police judge; C. R. De LaMatyr, clerk.

1919-20—G. M. Hinman, mayor; A. K. Dane, police judge; Fred G. Pierce, clerk.

CITY OFFICERS OF 1920

Mayor, G. M. Hinman; clerk, Fred G. Pierce; treasurer, A. F. Plambeck; police judge, A. K. Dane; commissioner of water, lights and sewers, P. H. Larson; city attorney, W. M. Cain; chief of police, M. J. Frederickson; chief of the fire department, Harry S. Morse; street commissioner, T. A. Adams; city physician, Dr. J. C. Agee; city engineer, L. M. Roesler; president of council, J. A. Yager; board of public works, C. H. Green, E. Sanderson, John Monnich; city councilmen, J. A. Yager; *H. C. Meadows, H. D. Muir, Fred D. Drew, F. H. Wallace, H. C. Dahl, Eric Ericson and Z. M. Marr.

INDEBTEDNESS OF CITY

The present indebtedness of the City of Fremont is \$311,000, which is in the shape of bonds (original and refunded). These bonds run forty years, but may be paid off at any five-year period. They bear 5 per cent interest; \$107,000 of these city bonds were issued for paying for the intersection of paving work.

CITY HALL, WATER WORKS, ETC.

As late as 1886 Fremont depended on a few shallow street cisterns at different corners from which water was pumped by means of a hand-pump, known as the "Mud-Sucker." This was a strangely and imperfectly constructed machine but commercially styled a force pump. This pump, a chemical engine and hook and ladder apparatus protected (?) the city from the fire fiend's ravages!

In 1885 the city voted bonds in the sum of \$25,000 for water works; again in 1889 \$35,000 more in bonds were voted. These bond issues of \$60,000 provided the city's first real water system. The purest of living water was procured from more than fifty drive wells at a depth of from fifty to eighty feet. The original stand-pipe is still doing service after all these three decades and more, and is situated at the south side of the city park and is 112 feet high. Another stand-pipe was subsequently erected and the combined capacity of the two is 176,000 gal. The pumping capacity is 2,000,000 gal. a day. In 1892 the city had 9½ miles of water pipes and mains, while today (1920) it has in excess of forty miles. The Fire department is excellent. It had its start away back when the old volunteer company was organized in November, 1868, as the "Fremont Frontier Fire Company." Later on other volunteer companies were formed and well furnished rooms were given to them in the new city building. Thousands of dollars worth of improvements and fixtures have been showered upon the various companies and the rooms occupied by them. The citizens have always appreciated the services of these firemen.

Today the city is kept safe by a large fire company of expert firemen who are provided with all the latest fire-fighting machinery extant.

THE CITY BUILDING

Fremont's "fine city building" as it was known a third of a century and more ago, was erected on the corner of Fourth and F streets and finished in 1889 at a cost of \$15,000 including the lots on which it stands. In this building are the various city offices, the firemen's parlors, fire apparatus rooms, city jail, etc. It is furnace heated throughout.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

There had been a few attempts at providing a permanent public library for the city, but none were very successful until the great iron master,



CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Andrew Carnegie, offered a proposition to the city, as he did in so many hundreds of cities of this country. The business men and active citizens—both men and women—accepted this generous offer and by the purchase of a suitable lot on Military Avenue, near the city park and agreeing to provide a certain amount annually for books, etc., the work went forward to speedy completion. The building is an ideal library home, with all that is desirable for both old and young. It costs the taxpayers of Fremont about \$1,700 a year to support this worthy institution. From thirty to fifty newspapers are constantly on hand in the reading rooms; magazines galore and suitable books from the best authors of the world are to be seen on the numerous "stacks." This is one of the useful public utilities which the good citizens ever take unalloyed pride in presenting to their visiting friends.

THE ORPHANS' HOME

In 1893 there was erected by the German Evangelical Lutheran Association a beautiful three-story brick building on East Military Avenue which was dedicated to homeless children. It lies in the midst of a four-

teen acre tract of land, including gardens, lawns, play-grounds, etc., for the unfortunate orphans. Pretty shade trees make the spot cool and shady in the heated summer months. Several hundred orphans have here found a comfortable Christian home and are being educated. In 1904 about \$4,000 was expended on the land and buildings. A German school was established not a great distance from the home. When of the proper age and having first been fairly well educated in all the common branches, these children are given good homes outside.

This institution is employed as a home for orphans, especially of the northeastern Nebraska district of the Lutheran Church and annual picnics and reunions are held on the grounds at Fremont every summer, when hundreds come in from far and near, and several days are spent. At such times the children and the institution are visited and inspected by the authorities of the church; liberal donations are also made in aid of the home.

THE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT

Fremont has never had the name of being much of a "boom town" but ever on the up-grade. From 1868 to 1875 the following improvements were reported by builders for the respective years as follows: In 1868, \$140,000; in 1869, \$196,000; in 1870, \$125,400; in 1871, \$124,000; in 1872, the panic year, \$42,000; in 1873, \$138,000; in 1874, \$108,100.

AMOUNT OF MANUFACTURING IN 1886

The subjoined shows the volume of manufacturing done in Fremont in 1886: Flour and feed, \$175,000; butter, \$88,000; iron works, \$50,000; clothing, \$41,000; beer, \$40,000; brick, \$100,000; woodworks, \$15,000; cigars, \$10,000; cornice, \$15,000; medicines, \$10,000; gloves and mittens, \$5,000; brooms, \$4,000; blank books, \$3,500. Total, \$556,500.

"IN A NUT-SHELL" 1905

Under the above title the leading local paper of Fremont in 1905 said as follows: "Fremont has now over forty manufacturers and jobbers; factories that employ almost six hundred and fifty persons; eighty traveling men representing local concerns; seventeen churches, all flourishing; seven banking houses, to which list may be added sixteen lawyers, nine public schools; two daily, one weekly and two tri-weekly newspapers; a commercial club with over two hundred members; a normal school; building and loan institutions second to none in Nebraska and many other features of a growing modern city."

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS INTERESTS—1892

In March, 1892, Fremont published a list of its commercial interests and such list shows there were 385 different places of business, including shops, retail and wholesale stores and factories. The list is as follows:			
Agricultural implement dealers..	5	Broom factories	2
Architects' offices	4	Blacksmith shops	6
Attorneys at law.....	20	Boarding houses	9
Bakeries	3	Boiler works	1
Banks	6	Breweries	1
Barber shops	10	Book bindery	1
Bicycle agents	1	Boot and shoe stores.....	5
Billiard halls	5	Book and stationery stores.....	4

Brick makers	2	Horse importing companies.....	2
Butter makers	2	Hotels	9
Canning factories	2	Harness and collar factory.....	1
Carpenter and builders' shops.....	2	Insurance agents	25
Carriage makers' shops.....	4	Investment companies	4
Carriage painters	4	Jewelers	5
Cigar factories	4	Land companies	2
Cigar box factories.....	1	Laundries	4
Cigar stores	7	Lithographers	1
Clothing stores	6	Livery stables	5
Creameries	1	Loan offices	15
Coal dealers	5	Lumber dealers	4
Confectionery dealers	12	Marble works	1
Dentists	3	Meat markets	7
Dressmakers	6	Merchant tailors	8
Druggists	4	Millinery stores	5
Dry goods stores.....	5	Nurseries	4
Dye works	1	Oil companies	4
Express companies	2	Opera house	1
Feed and sale stables.....	3	Papers, daily	3
Feed stores	3	Papers, weekly	7
Fence works	1	Physicians	10
Florists	2	Photographers	5
Flouring mill	1	Planing mills	2
Foundry	1	Plumbers	2
Furniture stores	4	Pork packers	2
General merchandise stores.....	5	Railroads	3
Gas and electric light companies.	1	Real estate dealers.....	16
Gent's furnishing goods.....	2	Restaurants	7
Grocery stores	14	Saloons	12
Gunsmiths' shops	2	Wholesale grocers	1
Hardware stores	6	Wholesale liquor	1
Harness shops	4	Wholesale produce	1
Hemp and twine mills.....	1		

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES—PAST AND PRESENT

The immense number of factories in Fremont is due to several reasons: The city's location; easy access to the markets of the world; its being within the great natural garden spot of the West; the class of business men at the head of affairs, each and all have had to do with the establishing of so many excellent manufacturing enterprises. Some of these factories have been operated a number of years and ceased to exist, but for the most part they are all operating today in some form or other.

The Fremont Foundry, one of Fremont's oldest big concerns, backed by pioneer men of means and brains, makes all kinds of castings and does light and heavy machine work. It was established in 1883 on a \$20,000 capital, but in 1905 it had increased its working capital to over \$100,000. It still does a thriving business and employs many men.

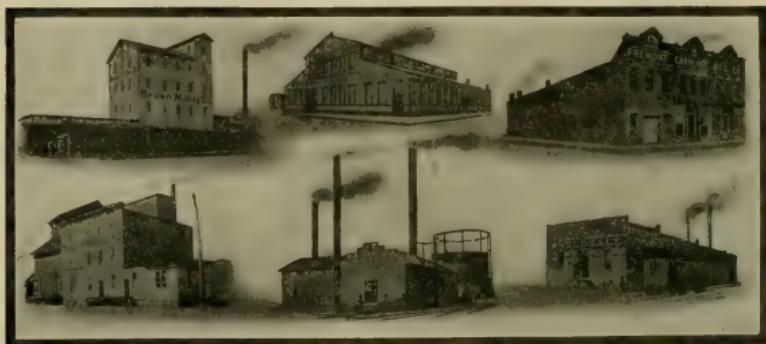
The Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company, dealers in grain and lumber, established in 1892 with a capital of \$450,000, now has a capital of \$2,500,000. This firm handles millions of bushels of grain annually—the largest plant in the great Missouri Valley section of the West.

Another great industry launched in 1892 was the Fremont Brewery—finest plant of its kind in all this section—its erection cost the stock-

holders (home men) \$125,000. The capacity is 30,000 barrels per year; its malt house holds 60,000 bushels. The product of this brewery was sold over a large area of country until the state and finally the United States wisely enacted their prohibition laws by which such products are prohibited from being made or used. Since the enactment of these laws this plant has turned its attention to making a beverage non-intoxicating in its character, and are now running full capacity in this line.

The Atlantic Canning Factory of Fremont (branch of a similar one in Atlantic, Iowa) adds to the legitimate number of excellent factories. The old three-story creamery building near the railroad was remodeled at a cost of \$23,000 and converted into a canning factory which is supplied by the raw products from more than a thousand acres. Sweet corn is the sole product now put up at this canning factory.

The Golden Rod and other large ice cream factories have come to be looked upon as among the city's best advertising agents—for their prod-



FACTORY DISTRICT, FREMONT

ucts go out daily over a large circuit of country. Tons upon tons of "Golden Rod" and "Polar Maid" as well as "Real Ice Cream" are shipped weekly.

The Fremont fence works, three large brick kilns, cement stone industry, numerous sand and gravel pits and artificial ice plants, a great poultry and produce house, immense public stock yards, all come in for their share of industrial value to the busy city.

It goes without saying that the flouring mill industry never ceases to be known far and near.

Looking over the list again comes to view the nurseries, the planing mills, the Hammond Printing Company, the Parlor Furniture and Mattress Company, and dozens of lesser plants complete the factory interests.

Away back in the years gone by the city also had its miles of horse-car street railway system (before electric cars were operated); it also had its great harness and saddle factory, established in 1892 on a \$100,000 capital by Fremont men, including its founder in fact, D. M. Welty. Over fifty men found employment in this plant and many more on the road. Almost every article cut from leather was made up here, including saddles and harness. A four-story brick factory was erected in 1892-93; also had another warehouse building as large. This industry was not well managed finally and went out of business a few years since and the buildings are now used by the produce company, etc.

The Hammond & Stephens Company is another large publishing and printing concern that carries on a large business and has customers for educational publications and blank books all over the country. Dan V. Stephens was the originator and copyrighted many forms used by the company.

One of the largest institutions of an earlier date was the hemp and twine factory which utilized thousands of acres of the rank growth of hemp growing on the flat lands to the east of the city. This produced a wonderful amount of binding twine for a number of years when the trade for various causes shifted to other sections of the country and was finally in the "binding twine trust" and was made elsewhere. Also the fertile lands on which the hemp grew here was better utilized for other crops.

The beet sugar industry was also a very extensive one at Fremont not so many years ago, but this industry, like the twine mill, was controlled by trusts and the difficulty in securing help in the cultivation of the beet, caused the great and useful industry to seek other locations. This was operated by the Standard Cattle Company and sprang into existence in 1893. Most of the capital employed was from the East. They had a capital of almost a million dollars and had a plant here with the largest beet house in the world. This industry employed many men and it was a great financial loss when the company ceased to operate here.

The Fremont stock yards has a history too lengthy for publication in this volume, but it should be said that it has been backed by home capital. A description of these yards in 1905 by a local writer said: "The dipping plant can accommodate over 5,000 sheep per day; the barns are ready for about thirty carloads of sheep at once; the yards occupy about 1,000 acres of land in the most fertile portion of the valley, and thousands of sheep are here fed annually. The Stock Yards and Land Company has been one of the most prominent undertakings in the city for many years. Sheep may come and sheep may go but the Fremont stock yards are here forever."

FREMONT GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

(By Lloyd W. Phillips)

The Fremont business men, with others from Lincoln, Nebraska, owned a gas and electric plant in Fremont until December, 1909, when it was purchased by Henry L. Doherty & Company who owns and controls eighty public utility concerns, such as gas, electric lights, ice, street railway and water companies in North and South America, Canada and Mexico, with interests in Europe.

At Fremont this company was reorganized by the Doherty company under the name of Fremont Gas, Electric Light and Power Company, of which Mr. Doherty is the president. The local management of this company is in charge of L. W. Phillips, general manager; M. W. Therne, secretary; E. A. Newlon, superintendent, and G. H. Here, manager of the new business.

The company employs thirty persons in all departments. They also own thirty gas and oil wells in various parts of the country. During the coal strike in 1918-19, at Fremont, through foresight and their own resources, the people of the city were not hampered for fuel or lights. The company realizes the important position it holds in the welfare of Fremont and its growing industries, and they have ever made the service fully up to standard.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY—1920

A recent business directory of the City of Fremont—the last one published—gives the following list of business men and women in the city. There have been some changes, but all herein given were here in 1919:

Abstract of Land Titles—J. F. Hanson & Company.
Agricultural Implements—W. A. Carroll, Fremont Farmers' Union Co-operative Association, Fremont Manufacturing Company.
Ambulance Service—A. C. Jens.
Architects and Superintendents—A. H. Dyer, F. A. Herfurth.
Art Store—E. Anderson & Company.
Artists—Mrs. Wilhelmina Eagle, Kubista Studio, A. F. Umphrey.
Asylums and Homes—Eastern Star (boys), Eastern Star (girls), Fremont Hospital, Lutheran Orphanage, Nye Avenue Hospital.
Attorneys at Law—Abbott & Rohn, Cain & Johnson, J. C. Cook, Court-right, Sidner, Lee & Jones, J. E. Daly, A. K. Dame, Frank Dolzal, A. B. Hinman, M. H. Hunter, H. M. Kidder, Loomis, Laird & Loomis, N. H. Mapes, Robins & Gleeson, F. L. Spear, D. A. Van Donselaar, F. W. Vaughn.
Auto Batteries—Fremont Storage Battery Company.
Automobile Dealers—Chandler Automobiles, Electric Garage, Krohn Motor Company, Larson Auto Company, John Monnich, Schurman & Carroll, White Motor Cars and Trucks.
Awnings and Tents—Rogers Tent & Awning Company.
Bakeries—Loyal Bakery Company, Vienna Bakery, F. J. Wislicen.
Banking—See chapter on banks in this work.
Barbers—Twelve shops.
Bee-Keepers' Supplies—J. J. Funk.
Bicycles and Repairs—William Burtz.
Blacksmiths—Three in number.
Blank-Book Makers—Hammond Printing Company.
Book Sellers—Five in number.
Building-Block Makers—Fremont Artificial Stone Building Block Co.
Building and Loan Associations—Equitable, Nebraska State and Occidental.
Canning Factory—Fremont Canning Company.
Carriage Manufacturers and Dealers.
Cigar Manufacturers—Five in number.
Cigars and Tobacco—Brunswick Cigar Store, Phelps Cigar Store, Saeger & Son.
Cigars (wholesale)—Phelps Cigar Company.
Cloaks and Suits—Block's Outfitting Store.
Clothing—Abraham Bordy, Hein Clothing Company, Victor Krelstein, John Sonin, Union Clothing Company, Ephraim Weinberg, Abraham Zlotky.
Creameries—Farmers' Union Co-operative Company, Fremont Creamery Company, Fremont Pure Butter Company, Golden Rod Creamery.
Dentists—Nine in number.
Department Stores—Eddy Brothers, H. G. Gumpert, T. H. Quinn.
Druggists—Brown-Fredericksen Company, Clarke Drug Company, Devries Pharmacy, Fidelity Pharmacy, Pohls' Drug Store.
Dry Goods (retail)—Eddy Brothers, H. G. Gumpert, T. H. Quinn.
Electric Light Company—Fremont Gas, Electric & Power Company.
Electric Supplies—H. J. Trotter.

Embalmers—E. Anderson & Company.
Fence Makers—Fremont Fence Company's Works.
Five and Ten Cent Stores—F. W. Woolworth Company, F. E. Wroe.
Florists—C. H. Green.
Flouring Mills—Brown Seal Mills, Fremont Milling Company.
Founders and Machinists—Fremont Foundry & Machine Company.
Fremo Manufacturers—Fremont Beverage Company.
Furniture Dealers—E. Anderson Company, J. R. Bader Company, Carl Dengler, Jacob Kavich, Parlor Furniture & Mattress Company.
Garages—The Zapp Garage, Electric Garage, Larson Auto Company, Farmers' Garage, John Monnich, Fred the Ford Expert, Johnson Auto Company, Nelson, Nash Sale Company, Schurman & Company, Joseph McKennan, Mercer Auto Company, William Pedersen, Ray Pettit, Carl Heinrich & Son, Dunbar's Auto Shop, C. H. McKissick, Bushnell & Son.
General Stores—Peoples Co-operative Store.
Grain Elevators—Fremont Farmers' Union Co-operative Company, Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company.
Granite and Marble Works—American Granite and Marble Works, Fremont Granite and Marble Works.
Grocers—Twenty in number.
Grocers (wholesale)—May Brothers Company.
Gunsmith—William Burtz.
Hardware Stores—Doering Henry, N. M. Hansen, Holloway & Fowler, Pilsbury, Veazie & Company, Thomas & Courtright Hardware Company. The last named firm also does a wholesale business.
Harness Manufacturers—J. M. Christensen, Emil Cloos.
Hotels—Nine, including the Pathfinder and the Terry.
Ice Cream Manufacturers—Golden Rod Company, Fremont Company, Candy Kitchen Company and the Loyal Bakery Company.
Incubator Manufacturers—Fremont Manufacturing Company.
Jewelers—H. G. Anderson, H. F. Haman, J. T. Herre, G. C. Spangler, Marshall Brothers.
Laundries—Ideal, New Fidelity, Rosa M. Andrews.
Live Stock Dealers—B. F. Custer, Fremont Farmers' Union Co-operative Association.
Lumber Dealers (also Coal)—Farmers' Co-operative Union, Melick Lumber Company, Nye, Schnedier, Fowler Company.
Market Gardener—Hans T. Nielsen.
Meat Markets—Seven in number.
Merchant Tailor—Herman Petersen.
Mill Work—Fremont Planing Mill Company, W. R. Reckmeyer.
Milliners—Seven in number.
Music Dealers—Boggess Music Company, C. L. Dudley, Music Store.
Medicine Manufacturing Company—Widhalm Remedy and Manufacturing Company.
Photographers—Kubista Studio, Mohler Studio, D. L. Yocom.
Physicians—Twenty in number (see medical chapter of this volume).
Poultry Dealers—Four in number.
Real Estate—Twenty-four in number.
Restaurants and Cafes—Eight in number.
Sand Dealers—Fremont Ice & Sand Company, Richey Sand Company.
Shoe Stores—Harry's Shoe Shop, Morris Horstman; J. H. Knowles, Bernhardt Shamborg, R. P. Turner.

POPULATION OF FREMONT

The matter of arriving at the exact population of the cities of the United States is not always an easy problem to solve. The system employed by the government at Washington by which the person who takes the census for so much a name, instead of a stated salary, is not always fruitful in arriving at the true number residing in a given city or town. For instance, the census taker calls three times at a house and finds no one at home he usually never returns to get the names of the household. It has come to light that many such errors have taken place in the 1920 enumeration. The figures given below are such as the department have sent out as correct, whether they are or not. The census periods of 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1920 run thus for Fremont. In 1890 it was 6,747; in 1900 it was 7,241; in 1910 it was 8,718, and in 1920, 9,549. It is generally believed that the city has at least 10,450.

FREMONT COMMERCIAL CLUB

All modern, enterprising cities in this country have boards of trade or commercial clubs by which the commercial interests of the place are advanced and sustained. Away back in May, 1880, Fremont, at the city hall, had organized what was known as the Board of Trade with the following charter membership: Z. Shed, G. W. E. Dorsey, L. D. Richards, Manley Rogers, Andressen & Meyer, L. M. Keene, C. Christensen, H. J. Lee & Co., Nye, Colson & Co., Otto Magenau, Cole & Pilsbury, Arthur Gibson, D. Crowell, Huette & Son, Hopkins & Millard, J. J. Hawthorne, E. H. Barnard and Welty & Shervin.

By this organization there was the utmost harmony among the business factors of Fremont. As time went on factories were secured and aided by this institution to the great betterment of the city.

After this organization had filled its mission another of similar aim was formed—the present Commercial Club, which in 1905 had a membership of 250 business men. This club favors the bringing of conventions to the city, believing this to be the best advertising plan than can be had. Through this club Fremont is ever ready to do its best at entertaining and showing up the city's interest to good advantage.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FREMONT COMMERCIAL CLUB

Some of the more recent achievements and improvements for which credit must be given to the Fremont Commercial Club should be mentioned in this connection. The club has always been efficient in securing the location in the capital of the county of desirable factories and varied manufacturing establishments, which employ considerable numbers of men and constantly add to the profitable business of the county. Among these may be mentioned the great canning company, and the Fremont Manufacturing Company. A second achievement of the club is the creation of a drainage district, of incalculable value to the whole section. A third is the establishment of a dyking district and a dyking system of the first value; and still another, the achievement of making Fremont "The City Beautiful" through the work of the park board, in rendering our urban park spaces the delight of citizens and strangers together; and in the removal of unsightly poles from the business streets, and the establishing of the electrolier lighting system, which renders our night appearance one of brilliant and fascinating beauty. Our city Commercial Club

has a most enviable reputation throughout the state, and in adjoining regions, for wide-awake activity and incessant vigilance in behalf of the highest weal and progress of our municipality. It makes the whole county proud of its capital.

EARLY DAYS IN FREMONT

In the 1916 volume of the publication entitled "Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences" under authority of the Daughters of the Revolution, there is a good description of the pioneer days in and near the City of Fremont, by two local ladies—Sadie Irene Moore and Mrs. Theron Nye—from whom we are at liberty to quote:

The first habitation of any sort was constructed of poles surrounded by prairie grass. It was built and owned by E. H. Barnard and J. Koontz in 1856, and stood upon the site of the present Congregational Church. In the autumn of 1856 Robert Kittle built and owned the first store. A few weeks later his house was occupied by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton, wife and two daughters, who were the first family to keep house in Fremont. Alice Flor, born in the fall of 1857, was the first child born in Fremont. She is now Mrs. Gilkerson of Wahoo. The first male child born in Fremont was Fred Kittle. He was born in March, 1858, and died in 1890. On August 23, 1858, occurred the first marriage. The couple were Luther Wilson and Eliza Turner. The first death was that of Seth P. Marvin, who was accidentally drowned in April, 1857, while trying to cross the Elkhorn River seven miles northeast of Fremont. The Marvin home was a mile and a quarter west of Fremont and this house was the rendezvous of the parties who laid out Fremont. Mr. Marvin was one of the town company.

The first celebration of the Fourth of July was in 1857. Robert Kittle sold the first goods. J. G. and Thomas Smith conducted the first regular store. In 1860 the first district school was opened with Miss McNeil teacher. Then came Mary Heaton, now Mrs. Hawthorne. Mrs. Margaret Turner, followed by James G. Smith, conducted the first hotel situated where the First National Bank now stands. This was also the "stage house" and here all the traders stopped en route from Omaha to Denver. In the evening the old hotel resounded with music of violin and the sound of dancing. Charles Smith conducted a drug store where Holloway and Fowler are now. A telegraph line was established in 1860. The first public school was held in the building owned by the Congregational Church at the corner of Eighth and "D" streets. Miss Sarah Pneuman, now Mrs. Harrington of Fremont, was the teacher. When court convened, school adjourned, there being no courthouse. In three years the school had grown from 16 to 100 pupils, with three teachers. The first public schoolhouse was built at the corner of Fifth and "D" streets.

In 1866 the Union Pacific was built. The first bank was established in 1867. The Tribune, the first paper, was published July 24, 1868. The "Central School" was built in 1869 and the teacher, in search of truant boys, would ascend to the top of the building, where with the aid of a fieldglass, she could see from the Platte to the Elkhorn. Today can be seen on the foundations of this old landmark the marks of slate pencils which were sharpened by some of our middle-aged business men of today.

Mrs. Cynthia Hamilton of Fremont gives an interesting account of the early days. In June, 1857, she, with her husband, Mr. West, their

daughter Julia, Mrs. West's brother, the late Wilson Reynolds, and Mrs. Reynolds, reached a few dwellings then comprising Fremont, after an eighteen or nineteen days' trip in moving wagons from Racine, Wisconsin. They first stopped at the house of Robert Kittle, corner of Military Avenue and Broad Street. This house was made from trees grown on the bluffs southwest of town, and had red cedar shingles for a roof, the shingles shaved from logs that had floated down the Platte River. After two days they all moved into a log house in "Pierce's Grove". While living here Mrs. Hamilton tells of hearing a great commotion among the tinware and upon investigation, found it was caused by a huge snake. In August of the same year they moved to their homestead northwest of town, on the Rawhide. It is now known as the Rohr place. Here they remained two years. In the winter the men made trips to the river for wood, and the women must either remain at home alone far from another house, or else accompany the men. Thus alone one day she saw a large band of Indians approaching. The chief picked up an ax from the wood pile and placed it under the window where she sat. He indicated that she must take care of it or else someone might steal it. He then led his band northward. During all the residence on the homestead the three members of the family suffered continually from ague. In the fall of 1859, Mrs. West and her child returned to Wisconsin, where they remained ten months. During her absence, Mr. West became a trader with the Indians and once in Saunders County, as he was selling a quantity of meat on a temporary counter, the Indians became rather unruly. His white companions fled, and Mr. West, seizing a club, went among the Indians, striking them right and left. For this they called him brave and ever afterwards called him "Buck Shadaway," meaning curly hair. When Mrs. West returned from Wisconsin, she came down the Mississippi and up the Missouri to Omaha, then a small town. From there they drove to Fremont, with horse and buggy, via Florence. Mr. West now bought a cottonwood house, battened up and down. It consisted of two rooms and stood on the site of the present residence of Thad Quinn. Wilson Reynolds bought two lots on the south side of Sixth Street near the West home for 75 cents. Here he built a house made partly of black walnut taken from the banks of the Platte. In this house was born our present postmaster, B. W. Reynolds. Mrs. Hamilton relates that the Indians were frequent callers at her home, one evening teaching her how to make "corn-coffee," by taking a whole ear of corn, burning it black and then putting it into the coffee pot. Food consisted of vegetables, which were grown on the prairie sod, prairie chickens, small game and corn bread. Butter was 25 cents a pound. Syrup was made by boiling down watermelon. Boiled beans were mashed to a pulp and used as butter. Everything was high and when the money and supplies were exhausted it was hard to get more. Screens were unknown and flies and mosquitoes were terrible. In the evening everyone would build a smudge so that they could sleep. Not a tree was to be seen except those on the banks of the streams. Tall prairie grass waved like the billowy ocean and prairie fires were greatly feared. Everyone began setting out trees at once.

In those days Broad Street was noted as a racing road for the Indians and now it is a boulevard for automobiles, says Mrs. Hamilton. "Yes," she continued, "I well remember the Fourth of July celebration of 1857. There were about one hundred people in attendance. Miss McNeil was my little girl's first teacher and Dr. Rushrat our physician." In 1861, after a short illness, Mr. West died. He was buried beside his infant

daughter in the cemetery, which at that time stood near the present brewery. The bodies were afterward removed to Barnard's Cemetery and later to Ridge Cemetery. The following year, Mrs. West, with her daughter, Julia, returned to her parents at Racine, Wisconsin, where she remained for many years. In 1876, as the wife of William Hamilton, she returned and made her home on one of her farms near the stockyards. Twenty-five years ago (1891) this place was sold at \$100 per acre, while the old homestead northwest of town brought \$25 per acre in 1875. After selling the south farm she and Mr. Hamilton, who died a few years ago, bought the present home on Broad Street. Everyone should honor the early settlers, who left their eastern homes, endured the hardships and privations, that a beautiful land might be developed for posterity. They should be pensioned as well as our soldiers. As we of the younger generation should respect and revere their memory.

EARLY DAYS IN FREMONT

(By Mrs. Theron Nye)

From the year 1856 until the beginning of the Civil war in 1861, the early settlers in Nebraska experienced nearly all of the ills and hardship incidental to a pioneer life. Fifty years have passed since then and to one having lived through those trying days—or to a stranger who merely listens to the almost incredulous tales of a past generation—there arises a question as to why any sane person or persons should desire to leave a land comparatively full of comfort and plenty for one of deprivation and possible starvation.

The early settlers of Fremont were for the most part young people from the eastern states, full of ambition and hope. There is in the youthful heart of a spirit of energy, of going and daring, in order to realize, if possible, dreams of a possible glorious future in which may be won honor and fame and wealth. Then again, the forces of nature are never at rest and man, being a part of the great whole, must inevitably keep in step with the universal law. A few lines written for a paper several years ago give the first impressions of the landscape which greeted the eyes of the stranger on entering the valley of the Elkhorn River in 1858, April 26:

"This is the picture as I see it plainly in retrospect—a country, and it was all country, with a smooth, level, gray surface which appeared to go on toward the west forever and forever. On the north was the bluffs of the Elkhorn River but the great Elkhorn Valley was a part of an unknown world. South of the little townsite of Fremont the Platte River moved sluggishly along to meet and be swallowed up by the great Missouri. Ten or twelve log cabins broke the monotony of the treeless expanse that stretched far away, apparently to a leaden sky. My heart sank within me as I thought but did not say, 'how can I ever live in this place?'" And yet the writer of the above lines has lived in Fremont for forty-seven years.

The histories of the world are mostly men's histories. They are the stories of governments, of religions, of wars, and only in exceptional instances women appeared to hold any important place in the affairs of nations. From the earliest settlement of the colonies in the New World until the present time, women have not only borne with bravery and fortitude, the greater trials of pioneer life, but from their peculiar organization and temperament suffered more from small annoyances than their



RESIDENCE OF HON. RAY NYE, FREMONT



LOG CABIN IN WHICH HON. RAY NYE WAS BORN

stronger companions of the other sex. The experiences of the home and the family life of the early settlers of the great West have never entered into the annals of history nor can a truthful story be told without them, but thus far no doubt the apparent neglect has been due to woman herself, who until quite recently has felt that she was a small factor in the world's affairs.

In the beginning of the new life in Fremont women had their first introduction to the log cabin which was to be their home for many years. It was not as comfortable as it is pictured in romance on printed paper. It was a story and a half high, sixteen by twenty feet in size. The logs were hewn on two sides, but the work performed by the volunteer carpenters of that time was not altogether satisfactory, consequently the logs did not fit in closely, but the open spaces between filled with a kind of mortar that had a faculty of gradually dropping off as it dried, leaving the original holes and openings through which the winter winds whistled and Nebraska breezes blew the dirt.

The houses were made of cottonwood logs and finished with cottonwood lumber. The shingles warped so the roof was somewhat resembling a sieve. The rain dripped through it in the summer and the snow sifted through it in the winter. The floors were made of wide, rough boards, the planing and polishing given them by the broom, the old-fashioned mop, and the scrubbing brush. The boards warped and shrunk so that the edges turned up, making wide cracks in the floor through which many small articles dropped down into a large hole in the ground miscalled a cellar. It was hardly possible to keep from freezing in these houses in the winter. Snow sifted through the roof, covering beds and floors. The piercing winds blew through every crack and crevice. Green cottonwood was the only fuel obtainable and that would sizzle and fry in the stove while water froze while standing under the stove. This is no fairy tale.

The summers were not much more pleasant. It must be remembered that there were no trees in Fremont, nothing that afforded the least protection from the hot rays of a Nebraska sun. Mosquitoes and flies were in abundance and door screens were unknown at that time. The cotton netting nailed over the windows and hung all around the beds was a slight protection from the pests, although as necessarily the doors must be opened more or less no remedy could be devised that would make any perceptible improvement. To submit was the rule and the law in those days, but many, many times it was under protest.

The first floor was divided off by the use of quilts or blankets, into kitchen, bedroom and pantry. The chamber, or what might be called the attic, was also partitioned in the same way, giving as many rooms as it would hold beds. The main articles of food for the first two years consisted of potatoes, cornmeal and bacon. The meal was made from a variety of corn raised by the Indians and called Pawnee corn. It was very soft, white and palatable. Wheat flour was not very plentiful the first year. Bacon was the only available meat. Occasionally a piece of buffalo meat was obtained, but it being very hard to masticate, only served to make a slight change in the gravy, which was otherwise made with lard and flour browned together in an iron frying pan, adding boiling water until it was the right consistency, salt and pepper to suit the taste. This mixture was used for potatoes and bread of all kinds. Lard was a necessity. Biscuits were made of flour, using a little cornmeal for shortening and saleratus for rising. Much of the corn was ground in an ordinary coffee mill or in some instances on a large grater or over a tin pan with perforated bottom, made so by driving nails through it. The

nearest flouring mill was Fort Calhoun, over forty miles away, which was then a three days' journey, taking more time than a trip to California at the present day. Nothing, however, could be substituted for butter. The lack of meat, sugar, eggs and fruits, tea, coffee was borne patiently, but wheat flour and cornmeal bread with its everlasting lard gravy accompaniment was more than human nature could bear, yet most of the people waxed strong and flourished on bread and grease. Oh, where are the students of scientific research and domestic economy? There were possibly three or four cows in this settlement at Fremont, and if there was ever an aristocracy in the place, it was represented by the owners of said cows.

In 1858 a little sorghum was raised. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Men, women and children helped to prepare the stalks when at the right age for crushing, which was done with a very primitive home-made machine. The juice obtained was boiled down to a syrup, but, alas, the dreams of a surfeit of sweetness vanished in the thin air, for the result of all the toil and trouble expended was a production so nauseous that it could not be used even for vinegar.

Wild plums and grapes grew in profusion on the banks of the river. There was much more enjoyment in gathering the fruit than in eating or cooking it. The plums were bitter and sour, the grapes were sour and mostly seeds, and sugar was not plentiful.

The climate was the finest in the world for throat and lung troubles, but the breaking up of the soil caused a malaria and many of the inhabitants suffered from ague and fever. Quinine was the only remedy. There were neither physicians nor trained nurses here, but all were neighbors and friends, always ready to help each other when the occasion required.

In 1856, the year in which Fremont was born, the Pawnee Indians were living four miles south of the Platte River on the bluffs in Saunders County. They numbered about 4,000 and were a constant source of annoyance and fear. In winter they easily crossed the river on the ice and in summer the water was most of the time so low they could swim and wade over, consequently there were few days in the year that they did not visit Fremont by the hundred. Weeks and months passed before women and children became accustomed to them and they could never feel quite sure they were harmless. Stealing was their forte. Eyes sharp and keen were ever on the alert when they were present, yet when they left almost invariably some little articles would be missed. They owned buffalo robes and blankets for which the settlers exchanged clothing which they did not need, jewelry, beads and ornaments, with a little silver coin mixture added. The blankets and robes were utilized for bedding and many of the shivering forms they served to protect from the icy cold of the Nebraska winters. In 1859 the government moved them to another home on the Loup River and in 1876 they were moved to the Indian Territory.

Snakes of many kinds abounded, but rattlesnakes were the most numerous. They appeared to have a taste for domestic life, as many were found in houses and cellars. A little four-year-old boy one sunny summer day ran out of the house barefooted, and stepping on the threshold outside the door felt something soft and cold under his foot. An exclamation of surprise caused a member of the household to hasten to the door just in time to see a rattlesnake swiftly gliding away. In several instances they were found snugly ensconced under pillows, on lounges and very frequently were they found in cellars.

For more than two years there was no way of receiving or sending mail only as one or another would make a trip to Omaha, which was usually once a week. In 1859 a stage line was put on between Omaha and Fort Kearny. No one can tell with what thankfulness and rejoicing each and every improvement in the condition and surroundings were greeted by the settlers. Dating from the discovery of gold in Colorado the pioneer was no more an object of pity or sympathy. Those who had planted their stakes and made their claims along the old Military Road to California were independent. Many of the immigrants became discouraged and turned their faces homeward before getting a good glimpse of the Rocky Mountains. On their way home they sold loads of provisions for a song. The same fall the soil of the fertile Platte Valley, after two years of cultivation, responded to the demand of civilization. There was a market west for everything in the way of grain, and every pound of vegetables grown. So at last the patient and persevering ones received their reward.

The sources of amusement were few and yet all enjoyed the new, strange life. A pleasant ride over the level prairie dotted with wild flowers in any sort of vehicle drawn by a pair of oxen was as enjoyable to the young people then as a drive over the country would now be in the finest turnout that Fremont possesses. A dance in the room twelve by sixteen feet in a log cabin, to the music of the "Arkansas Traveler" played on a violin, was "just delightful." A trip to Omaha once or twice a year was a rare event in the women's life particularly. Three days were taken—two to drive in and out and one to do a little trading (not shopping) and look around to view the sights. A span of horses, a lumber wagon with a spring seat in front, high up in the air, was a conveyance. Women always wore sunbonnets on these occasions to keep their complexion fair.

Several times in the earlier years the Mormons passed through here with long trains of emigrants journeying to the promised land and a sorry lot they were, for the most of them were footsore and weary, as they all walked. The train was made up of emigrant covered wagons drawn by oxen and handcarts drawn by cows, men, women and dogs. It was a sight never to be forgotten.

This is merely a short description of some of the trials and sufferings endured by the majority of the early settlers of this state. Many of the actors in the drama have passed away—a few only now remain and soon the stories of their lives will be to the coming generation like forgotten dreams.

REMINISCENCES

In a paper read before the Woman's Club of Fremont by Rev. William H. Buss of the Congregational Church, in December, 1919, were the following interesting and historic reminiscences which should be preserved in the present HISTORY OF DODGE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, hence have been inserted:

"In the days of the '70s, when horses and mules were in demand, a dealer of this city shipped this kind of stock in from the coast and sold it to the farmers. It was a common sight to see a horse with a bell tied to his neck, and a small boy, on his back, coming up Main street with a lot of mules following along for a block or more, and entirely loose. Unloaded from the cars, they followed the 'bell horse' and without any straying, to the company barnyard."

"In the early history of Fremont the place frequently suffered from disastrous fires. There had been erected a skeleton fire tower at the top of which hung the fire bell, and the structure stood opposite the site of the present courthouse. A Chinaman conducted a laundry across the street, and one of his customers (evidently not a real Fremont) one day called for his wash, took it, and withdrew hastily, without paying the bill. With his pig-tail flying, John rushed out immediately resolved to raise the city, and spread the alarm. He crossed the street to the fire bell tower, and vigorously pulled the cord, without stint or limit, summoning the usual crowd. When the volunteer firemen learned that there was no fire and only a Chinaman's laundry bill in peril, they were mad enough to hang the celestial, up beside the bell.

"It has been stated that secretly it was regretted there was no recording phonograph-mechanism at hand to preserve to posterity the dialogue of mingled Chinese and fireman profanity."

"Pioneer Mr. Kelly used to relate how 'The farmers broke the open prairie, and planted corn and turnips, and other vegetables, including squash and pumpkins. I used to go to a farm, with a top-box on the wagon and the farmer would sell me for *fifty cents* all the pumpkins and squash I could put in the wagon. In one load I counted 203, and some of them were all I could lift. We cut them up with spades for the cattle. At this time corn was worth only nine cents in the crib. I have bought several loads at this price. Coal was rather difficult to get, as we lived thirteen miles from Fremont. We could drive anywhere we pleased over the prairies. In the winter of 1870-71, we burned corn for months. The ears were large, and I put one into the stove as I would a stick of wood. Corn makes an intense heat, and even burns out the grate.'

"Farming was not as pleasant work as it is now. Pork could hardly be sold. I sold good thick spare ribs for one cent a pound. Today (1919) spare ribs are spare indeed!"

"One fine autumn morning there might have been seen one of Fremont's very earliest pioneers—J. J. Hawthorne—coming down town from his residence, carrying something very unique and precious, to show his friends, and he produced a sensation, when, on Main Street, he exhibited a number of Fremont grown apples. People looked at them with wonder and admiration, and with as much curiosity as if they were meteors from without our planet's orbit. But the Hawthorne apples were a foretaste of the future golden age."

"Among the numerous railway wrecks occurring in or near Fremont may be described the one near the city and on the Union Pacific line in 1869—the worst ever had here. The only hotel in the city then was the Fremont Hotel kept by Samuel H. Fowler. Many wounded and dead from the wreck west of town were brought to the hotel, while others were borne to the Union Pacific station, a small one story frame building."

"Bank robbers gave Fremont much excitement many years ago. It was learned that bank robbers were on a certain train coming through the city and were intending to stop. Sheriff Gregg had sworn in as one of his deputies, to assist in the arrest, the intrepid veteran of the Civil war, the late Ed. Morse. As the train pulled in, the robbers alighted, sure enough, and began shooting at once. One bullet struck Morse in

the mouth, and passed into his throat, leaving an ugly and dangerous wound. The thieves stole horses near at hand, rode to the river and jumped into a skiff and hurried out into the middle of the Platte River. The man who shot our fellow townsman, was in turn shot by the sheriff, while on the river, and his companion surrendered, was brought back to the county jail, and threatened for a time with lynching. He was later convicted and sent to the penitentiary. After long and patient suffering, Mr. Morse returned to health and a long service as a valuable citizen of Fremont."

Doctor Buss, in concluding his paper before the Woman's Club, said: "Who does not remember the disappointments that came in the past in the failure to materialize of the long promised and seemingly assured railroad shops that were to make us metropolitan in industry; in the like failure to appear of the Great Packing House which would have made us as important as South Omaha; in the falling down of the Hemp factory industry that promised so brilliantly for a long period?

"Who does not recall the hopes entertained by the Street Railway Company of Old Fremont and the dismal issue and dwindling end of the whole enterprise? There was the great Chautauqua Assembly, too, and its fine auditorium with its brilliant programs of oratory and discussion to which I listened with pride in the first of the nineties, but which faded away in financial failure to the disheartening of the friends of culture and literary hope for the town.

"These and others were the tragedies of the disappointment which came in the later days and which tried men's souls as truly as did the grasshoppers and drouths of early times.

"But Fremont triumphed over all, as she will triumph over every hindrance that the years unfold.

"In conclusion then let all hearts salute the men and women of Old Fremont and cherish their memory, emulate their courage and perseverance."

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM B. LEE

(Contributed by Mrs. Eliza Lee Flynn)

William B. Lee was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, November 13, 1832. He came to America in 1851, and to Nebraska in 1856. In Ireland, when William Lee was a boy, the main industry was the raising of flax. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather, in their day, were foremost in their neighborhood, both in the form of industry and also in the manufacture of linen. Their fine linens found a ready market in all parts of the world. So experienced was his grandfather in this business that at one time he held a government appointment, as an expert linen examiner. In the early days of English dominance in Erin there were many of the name of Lee who became settlers in southwestern Ireland, and belonging as they did to the Church of England, took a lively part in the religious wars of the period. On his mother's side, among these were the Martins and Brownlees, who were Scotch Covenanters, and whose ancestors had emigrated to Ireland when King William of Orange entered England to aid the Protestant cause. They joined his army and fought through the Irish wars, receiving for their service grants of land in the County of Tyrone. The people of Mr. Lee's maternal grandmother were known as the Brownlees of Bothwell, Scotland.

Thomas Brownlee, Earl of Bothwell, held a high place in King William's army, and made his home continuously in Ireland. Of his grand-uncle Brownlee Mr. Lee loved to relate tales learned at his uncle's knee, especially those about the bonfires he and others were in the habit of kindling upon the highest neighboring hills whenever word was received of an American victory over the British. At that time, little did he think that one day he would himself be a citizen of America, "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But to America came William B. Lee, in 1851, crossing the Atlantic in a sailing vessel which was five weeks and three days in making the voyage. Five years later he traveled from the coast westward to Nebraska.

He was married in September at St. Joe, Missouri, to Miss Margaret Cassidy, like himself a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, and the ceremony was performed by Bishop Hennessey, afterwards Archbishop. He was educated in London. After fifty-five years of happy union Mrs. Lee died at her home in Fremont, Nebraska, January 30, 1918, and in just five months to a day, while on a visit to his daughter in Douglass, Wyoming, Mr. Lee also passed away. For sixty-two years he had made his home in the City of Fremont, in the founding of which he had prominently participated, and in which for fifty years he had been honored as a worthy and valuable citizen; the last of a little band of pioneers who lived as one family in the summer of 1856 in a log cabin at the corner of Broad Street and Military Avenue.

His experience in numerous Indian engagements makes an interesting page in the history of Nebraska pioneers. He acquired land along the Platte River, east of Fremont, a part of which today constitutes the Fremont stockyards. Mr. Lee built a substantial log cabin, to which came at length his bride from the City of London. Great must have been her courage and resolution, for vast indeed was the change from the City of London to the open plains of our great West. She frequently told her children in after years that an Indian seemed peeking at her from every tree, so frequently did they appear. She had come in the second or third year of the Civil war and the times following that conflict were pressingly hard. Later Mr. Lee replaced his cabin with a substantial frame building, commodious and comfortable, and life became more worth while. Mrs. W. B. Lee has the distinction of being the first Catholic woman resident in Fremont. She was the hospitable hostess to Catholic missionaries and also to those of the Protestant faith, and to this day people speak in admiration of her gracious hospitality to the travelers of the plains.

The coming of William B. Lee to Fremont antedated its founding by a few weeks. They left Grant County, Wisconsin, in search of a home-stead in the summer of 1856 traveling from Prairie du Chien to Rock Island, Illinois—thence by train to Iowa City, then the terminus of the railroad. They made the trip to Fremont on foot. There was a stage line running to Council Bluffs, but the "Foot and Walker" was more appealing to these young adventurers. In speaking of the pioneer days of William B. Lee, the name of his cousin, Commish Lee, frequently appears, for they were comrades in adventure. Together they had left Grant County, Wisconsin, hoping to join the army then being organized by General Lane against the abolitionists. Reaching Council Bluffs they found the company they had intended to join had left for Kansas, and the spirit of adventure having well taken hold of the Lee boys, they decided to go on west and look over the Territory of Nebraska. The country was sparsely settled but they managed to find a hospitable cabin

for the night stops. Saturday night, just at sunset, they reached Council Bluffs and to their delight found a steamboat about to cross the river to Omaha, so their first Saturday night in Nebraska was spent in Omaha, then claiming a population of 100 souls, not including the Omaha Indians. Next morning they saw their first Indian fight on the very spot where the state capitol building was to be erected.

An Indian was beating his squaw when the brother of the woman interfered. The clash was short and decisive. A knife flashed, then a bow fitted with an arrow twanged a death song. But the murderer fled to the hills.

This was their introduction to Indian life; little did they think then of the many encounters they were to have with the redskins, ere Nebraska would be a safe place for the settler.

Had they foreseen it all would they have gone forward? We know they would not have turned back, they had come from a line of people with a spirit of freedom strong in their breasts, pioneers by nature, whose parents, born under the rule of England, had not been afraid to brave the seas and emigrate to the shores of America, seeking independence, liberty and freedom and they feared no man when knowing that what they were doing was approved by Almighty God.

Onward these two young men marched ever westward; on toward that glorious dream of a home on the plains, that they might help to build a state and play their part in the building of a new West.

By night they had reached Elkhorn City and spent that night in company with a man who had decided to take a claim in the Elkhorn Valley. Next morning they continued the journey to a point seven or eight miles north, where they found a ferry across the Elkhorn. Reaching the great valley of the Platte, they followed the old Mormon or California trail to a point, 1½ miles northwest of the present site of Fremont, staying that night with the Bebee family, who were the first real bona fide inhabitants of this part of the state.

William B. and Commish Lee rightfully claim to be the second set of inhabitants, as they arrived here August 7, 1856, about three weeks before the townsite was named Fremont. While seeking land they went as far west as Columbus, but found no place they liked as well as the territory of the Platte Valley.

It was on returning to the valley the second time, that they fell in with Messrs. Barnard, Koontz, Smith, Kittle, Moorland and a Mr. Pinney and they thus participated in the founding of Fremont. Stakes being driven for a site the day after they returned, Commish Lee holding one end of the rope, in lieu of the regulation surveyor's chain. He always maintained that the irregularity of the streets and blocks of the original plot of the city was due to the stretching of the rope.

At this time Buchanan was democratic candidate for President and an effort was made to name the town Buchanan, but the townsite company found the "Pathfinders" more popular so they honored John C. Fremont. The townsite then did not include anything east of Union Street. Later land east of the site was pre-empted and the Lees invested there.

Often in recent years, previous to the death of William B. Lee, has he recounted the great entertainment of the younger generation—pages from his memory, of those pioneer days when the principal occupation of the settler was fighting the redskins, freighting to Kearney, Columbus and Buffalo, Wyoming, and hunting the wild buffalo that roamed the prairies in immense herds; yes, and fighting, too, the destruc-

tive prairie fires that spared nothing in their mad race over the plains. As Mr. Lee had said they endured all sorts of privations and hardships, such as only pioneers could understand. Back in those days they dwelt, as one family, at the corner of Broadway and Military where the old marble works used to stand, in a cabin built of logs that had been taken from the island in the Platte River. There were William B. and Commish Lee, Barnard, Judge Smith and Koontz in a cabin twelve feet square.

As late as 1918 William B. Lee was the only one left of that community of pioneers living in Fremont, his cousin, Commish Lee, having been called by death some five years before. E. H. Barnard had by several years preceded Commish Lee. Mr. Koontz, early in the life of the City of Fremont, had gone to the Territory of New Mexico, there bought an Indian village, and there ended his days. Judge Smith of the household of pioneers, years ago, gave up Fremont as his home and established his residence in California.

In the cemetery in Fremont sleep the three, who together began life pioneering on the plains of Nebraska, establishing their homes in a city of their building; there raising their families and promoting the best interest of the ever increasing community, and there at last ending their days, surrounded by the respect and admiration of the second and third generation, living to see their children's children, and leaving for them a heritage of honor and integrity.

Many of the trees standing in Fremont and so much admired by our visitors were planted by the hand of William B. Lee. The oldest tree in Fremont was planted by him at the corner of Sixth and Union streets, and for over half a century lent its limbs to many a rope for an old-fashioned swing, to be used by the children and grand-children of the pioneers. Bravely withstanding storms for more than half a century, it was finally overcome and completely destroyed, in a high wind in 1917. Trees in the days of the earlier settler were even more welcome than flowers in springtime, and every day was Arbor Day to the progressive pioneer.

Mr. Lee was also a member of the townsite company of Wahoo, Nebraska.

Speaking of the fall of 1856, Mr. Lee has said: "By Christmas our circle had grown considerably larger and, oh, how heartily we welcomed each newcomer, only a pioneer can say. That year winter came, December 2d; snow falling three nights and days; on the level the snow was about three feet deep. I made a pair of snowshoes in order to get around, going to the island to hunt deer and wild turkey, of which I killed many. In February the snow disappeared only to be followed in April by a heavier fall adding greatly to our misery, it was a winter that none of us ever could forget.

"Unwelcomed visitors were too frequent so that we dwelt in constant expectation of a massacre by the Indians. In early and late fall it was our custom to go on an extended buffalo hunt and secure sufficient meats to last us until spring. These expeditions were full of interest and sometimes vividly thrilling, especially when we would meet a herd of several thousand buffalo, running in advance of a prairie fire, and we, soldier fashion, would be compelled to lie down beside our prostrate ponies and let the entire herd pass over us. It was then that our hearts beat hard and fast, for while we knew a buffalo would never step on a prostrate animal, still we feared they might do so by chance, enraged as they were, by the ever hastening flames of the advancing fire."

Such tales of real life on the plains Mr. Lee has left for his children and grand-children to read, and as they do so they can but read with pride of the adventures of a brave, noble and Christian gentleman. In character Mr. Lee was honest to a fault, upright and ever dignified, of modest, kindly disposition and deeply religious, living his religion into his daily life.

Almost his last thought was of Fremont where so many of his best years were spent, for to those about his deathbed he said: "Say to Fremont, for her I have nothing but the kindest and best of thoughts; tell this to Fremont when I am gone." After an illness of ten days while visiting at the home of his daughters, this sturdy man, last and earliest of the pioneers, answered the call. He was buried from the Presbyterian Church, with which he had long been identified, and laid to rest beside his wife, July 3, 1918.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. William B. Lee were six in number. Four of them are living at the time of this sketch: Mrs. A. R. Merritt being the eldest, Frank T. Lee, Mrs. John M. Flynn, and Edward A. Lee.

Mr. Lee early acquired much real estate in Fremont, and his time in later years was devoted to the care of these interests, having retired from stockraising and other business activities about the year of the organization of the Fremont Stock Yards Company, when he sold to that company his first farm in Nebraska, on the site of which stands the Fremont Packing House. Partial loss of hearing caused Mr. Lee to withdraw from active business life in late years although his memory up to the very last was unfailingly true. Having seen so much of the stress of pioneer life, he was regarded as an authentic fountain of information regarding the history of the early days of his town and county, and his last years were devoted to the effort of faithfully recording for his children the birth and development of Fremont, his adopted home, together with many tales of early life on the plains of Nebraska.

CHAPTER XXIII

FREMONT TOWNSHIP

Before the "Township Organization" obtained in this county in 1886, what was known as "Fremont Precinct" existed, and Fremont City was within such subdivision of Dodge County. Fremont Precinct included present Platte Township, and other additional domain of the county and was created a precinct by the County Commissioners in 1857. The first election was held at the house of Barnard & Koontz. The judges were E. H. Rogers, Jackson Davis and A. McNeil. Much of the early history of the "beginnings" in Dodge County transpired within Fremont Precinct. At this time the Township of Fremont simply contains the territory covered by the incorporated city, but like North Bend, has its representation on the board of county supervisors, same as all other outside townships.

EARLY DAYS IN DODGE COUNTY

[In 1884 on the occasion of the farewell services held at the old Congregational Church at Fremont, a reminiscence was written and read by pioneer E. H. Barnard. Now that thirty-six years have passed and the "new" Congregational Church is styled the "oldest church in town" these historic items seem more interesting than ever to many present-day readers, hence the story is here repeated.]

When in the early autumn of 1856, from the bluffs near Elkhorn City, my eye first beheld this portion of the great Platte Valley, I thought I had never seen so goodly a landscape. For many miles the windings of the Elkhorn and Platte rivers were outlined by a fringe of timber, bounding the valley on either side, while the meanderings of the now classic Rawhide Creek were so distinctly traceable by an occasional clump of trees and bushes. The sight filled me with rapture and made the blood fairly bound within my veins. In all my life I had never seen its like and I never expect to again. Here was this grand and beautiful fertile country spread out like a pretty map at my feet. And what made it the more fascinating was the fact that it was all unoccupied except by the Indians and wild beasts. What wonder that those who saw this valley then should be seized with a strong desire, as was Moses of old, to go in and possess the land?

Well, we went in—a few of us—and just here the poetry of the narrative ends. Instead of the flesh-pots of Egypt, made ready and waiting for us, we found privations and hardships on every hand. Nobody had been in advance to build us houses and dig us wells, to lay out roads and build bridges, schoolhouses and churches, nor men to plant groves for us. We had all these things to do ourselves. The man who has a good house to live in while he builds a better one does a good thing, but he who builds a shelter while he himself is unsheltered does quite a different thing, and just what the first settler in a new country always has to do. Everything had to be done in way of building before we could begin to live, and all the while we were preyed upon most persistently by flies and gnats in the daytime and flees and mosquitoes by night. Insect life was animated and held high carnival, and I can assure you there is quite

a difference between the music of the festive mosquito just outside the screen and the same voice—and bill, too—on the rim of your ear, as some of you may know. Well, we did not have screens then, or any place to hang them either, which was worse. And further, besides all these impediments and pull-backs we had the Indians to pacify. All this, however, was expected, and as long as money held out to buy provisions with, we were content. The first human habitation, so far as is known, was built upon the very spot where a part of this church now stands. I say human habitation because it sheltered men, and you may regard it as an inhuman place to live in when I tell you that it was built of logs about twelve by sixteen feet and covered with hay. It was occupied first as a boarding house and afterwards as a hotel, furnishing lodgings to as many as fifteen or one occasion over night. Such was the first building in the City of Fremont. In due time it gave place to this edifice, and now that we are to remove the old building from this site, how fitting that a monumental church should be erected in its place, thus marking the precise spot where that first cabin stood.

The first winter which followed was one of great severity, and a large portion of the stock which had been brought into the settlement in the fall, having nothing to eat but hay, mostly cut in October after it had been struck by the frost, perished.

I well remember that one of eight oxen brought here by Mr. Heaton, or perhaps I might say that brought him and his effects here, only three survived. And here I want to relate a little incident. One of the most respected citizens, then as now, built a sled—an ox-sled—rather large, as it was intended to haul house-logs on, and as the weather was bad he was delayed in his work so that the vehicle was not completed until mid-winter. Then all was ready, and when he hitched his oxen to it, they had become so poor and the snow was so deep and the sled so very heavy that they were unable to stir it out of its place. How handy it would have been if he could have had a span of those fat Percheron horses, of which Fremont now boasts, to put in their places. But then we did not have Percheron horses.

During the winter provisions had to be brought from Omaha through snow drifts that were well-nigh impassable. It used to take a week to make a trip and sometimes much longer. On one occasion toward spring when there was a crust on the snow strong enough to bear the weight of a man in most places, a couple of sacks of flour were brought over from Fontanelle on a hand-sled to piece out till our regular supplies could be got from Omaha. The winter was tedious, both in its monotony and its weather. But in the spring all was bustle and stir in the settlement. Every man in health had good courage and hope. Considerable prairie was broken up in time for corn planting. The sod corn was of the variety known as squaw corn, from the fact of its having been planted by the squaws prior to our coming to the country. It was similar to Nevada corn, except that the kernel was softer. It was all colors and when ground or beaten into meal was the most perfect specimen of variegated colors imaginable.

This corn, while it was good for food, could not at that time be sold for cash nor even traded for other provisions, for the simple reason that there was not any cash or provisions in the country demanding it. It had a value, however. It was good to donate to the minister and for some other purposes! I have been particular to describe this corn because soon it became the staple article of diet in the little hamlet of Fremont. If it had not been for that little crop of sod corn there is no knowing

what would have become of the colony. The settlement must have been retarded if not scattered permanently. This may seem strange to the present well-fed inhabitants of this prosperous city, but it should be remembered that like most first settlers in a new country, the first here were for the most part poor in this world's goods and it will be readily seen that the expenses incident to building houses and buying everything for a year's subsistence, and without any income whatever, were considerable, so that it was not strange that the second winter found most of the settlers with very lean or quite empty purses. One man who had spent all, applied to his grocer in Omaha for credit on a supply of groceries until he could raise another crop. He got an answer "Groceries are cash!" He offered to sell dry goods on time—but they were not needed.

Our friend came home without either and with Puritanic firmness sternly determined to stay and go without until such time as he could pay cash. That man was E. H. Rogers, afterward and for many years cashier and the presiding genius of the First National Bank of Fremont. How he and his family luxuriated in cornmeal that season I leave you to imagine.

I well remember the case of two families, father and son, living in one house on cornmeal alone for several weeks until, toward spring, their cow taking compassion on them graciously consented to add the luxury of fresh milk to their diet. I say luxury because I mean it. The necessities of life are really very few and as a certain ex-judge of this county once expressed it, "They are mostly imaginary."

People sometimes get discontented and complain of hard times, simply because they are not quite as well off as some of their neighbors. They think they are frugal and saving, but what would they think of a regular diet of cornmeal and salt with variations and plenty of good water three times a day for ninety days or so?

One thing is evident, if the early settlers of Fremont are not all in comfortable circumstances it is not for any want of enforced lessons in practical economy for they certainly had them and plenty of them, and fully illustrated.

A little anecdote may serve as a pointer and to illustrate the style of those early days. A small boy recently transported from a house in western New York had taken his place at the table and was about to begin his repast when his grandma told him he had not said grace. The little fellow looked up with surprise and impatience: "I don't see what we have to give thanks for; we live in beggar houses and eat beggar victuals and have to sit on old trunks and three-legged stools instead of chairs." He couldn't see it and the old lady had to perform the duty for him.

In 1857, with many others, came a man with three P's which being interpreted read: Poverty, Perseverance and Pluck. He reached the little hamlet of log cabins on foot—worn, dusty and penniless—as did many another. He at once sought and found a place where he could work for his board—and such board!—until he could do better. Well, he managed by hook and crook to keep soul and body together and by the next spring succeeded in borrowing money enough of some friend East to buy a breaking team consisting of two yoke of oxen and a plow, but before he had turned a furrow the Indians stole three of his oxen and while searching for them the other ox strayed off, so he lost all and had the borrowed money to pay. That was a little discouraging, was it not? He might have sat down and wrung his hands and prated that the

world was against him, or he might have packed his knap-sack and gone off cursing the country, but he did neither. He stayed and kept at it. That man today is at the head of one of the great commercial houses of this city and a bank president.

About the same time a family settled here from one of the western states. Some of the ladies called on the newcomers, as you know ladies do sometimes, and the hostess informed them that she had not been accustomed to such society or to living in such houses, with such furniture. "Why," she said, "where I came from we had our houses painted on the inside and had painted furniture, too." As if the ladies of Fremont had never seen paint. The next spring there was a rush of travel to Pike's Peak and this very woman had tacked up on her house a sign which read: "Butter for SAIL Here." She was believed to be the first codfish aristocrat of Fremont—she does not live here now.

I have spoken thus of the humble beginnings, of the hardships and poverty and self-denial of those early days as in contrast to the present time that the dishonest and unfortunate may take courage by knowing what others have had to endure, that the lavish may learn to save, that the haughty may be humble, and that all may remember not to despise the day of small things.

CHAPTER XXIV

NICKERSON TOWNSHIP

DESCRIPTION—BOUNDARY—EARLY HISTORY—POPULATION—SETTLEMENT —FIRST THINGS—EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS—VILLAGE OF NICK- ERSON—PRESENT DEVELOPMENT—THE TWO RAILROADS.

Nickerson Township is government township 18, range 8, and a part of range 9—that part west of the Elkhorn River. Originally this was all a part of Maple Township, but after various changes the present bounds were made in 1886.

Geographically, this township is bounded on its north by Hooper Township, on the east by Washington County, on the south by Platte and Elkhorn townships, on the west by Maple Township.

What is known as the Black Hills line of Northwestern Railway runs through the township from north to south, with a station point at the Village of Nickerson, situated in section 11. The Sioux City branch of the "Burlington" system also touches this point. (See railroad chapter.)

POPULATION

The United States census reports for various decades gives the population of this township: In 1890 it was 633; in 1900 it was 717, and ten years later it only had 637, which has increased probably in the last decade, although the present census figures have not as yet been made public.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT

The first person to take land in this township was an attorney-at-law named Henry Depew, who bought a quarter section in "thirteen," in 1857. He finally let the land go back for the taxes and it was bid in by Michael Herman, who subsequently sold a part of it to the railroad company, and they platted the Village of Nickerson on it. Depew went to Germany as counsul to Baden and later was made an Indian agent on the Pawnee Reservation, Nebraska.

July 2, 1859, came Michael Herman, and he stated that when he arrived the only actual settlers in the township were Thomas Fitzsimons, Morris Wogan, O. A. Heimbaugh, Henry C. Campbell, Arthur Bloomer, J. H. Peters and a Mr. Bingham. In 1861 August Milligan and E. Abbott settled in the township. Other settlers were as follows:

John K. Cramer came to Dodge County in 1855, before the organization and was numbered among the first Fontanelle colony. After remaining there twelve years, he moved to section 14 of Nickerson Township where he was still residing in the '90s.

James H. Peters, of section 8, was a pioneer of 1855, and located at Fontanelle, but later moved to this township.

Christopher Knoell, of section 32, came to Dodge County in 1859 with his parents, and in 1862 they moved to a new place in Nickerson Township. The experiences this family had with the Indians at an early day were really of an interesting character.

Michael Herman came to the Elkhorn Valley in 1859 and finally purchased land in section 12 of this township. Subsequently he retired in the nearby village.

Rasmus Johnson, section 23, came to Dodge County in the fall of 1867, at first settling in section 20, homesteading twenty acres. Later he sold and purchased land in section 23.

Another settler of 1867 was William H. Sweet, Jr., who finally settled in section 4, and secured a half section of land prior to 1892. He was a native of New York State.

In 1876 came Romanzo M. Havens, who first located at Fontanelle in 1868 and lived there until 1876, when he moved to Nickerson and bought a hotel property which he still owned in the early '90s.

Francis M. Healey, section 28, came to Douglas County in 1870 and at first worked by the month for others. He then farmed in Wisconsin till 1874, then returned to Nebraska and bought land on the Maple Creek, living there until he moved to section 28 in 1880.

Other settlers included Andrew P. Shepard, section 27, who was a resident of Dodge County from 1871 and in 1893 owned 680 acres of excellent land in this county.

Philip Gentzler, section 20, came to Dodge County in 1868, first stopping at Fremont, but four years later moved to Nickerson Township.

Gerhart Harms located in section 3. He came to the county in 1870. He settled on Logan Creek, purchasing a place in Nickerson Township three years after his coming.

Another settler of Nickerson in 1870 was John Thede. He located in section 28, lived there five years then moved to a new place in section 16.

Reuben Falconer purchased 240 acres of land in this township in 1872 and built in section 17.

Jerry S. Diehl, section 23, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1877. He worked on a farm for others three years, then bought a quarter section of land to which later he added considerable.

Nels Christiansen, section 21, located in Fremont, and eight years later, or 1882, removed to his farm in Nickerson Township.

Charles Diers, section 32, came to this township in 1874.

Jorgan Larson, later of section 16, came to this county in 1879 and bought eighty acres of land. All was wild prairie then, but in a few years he had developed his land into a very attractive and valuable place.

Isaac H. Brown, section 5, came in 1881. He bought cheap land and within a few years was surrounded by a comfortable home.

Lewis Larson, section 9, first located after coming in 1883 on the old Doctor Sexton land, which he leased six years then bought in Nickerson Township and made himself a good home.

Christopher Johnson, of section 21, came to Nickerson in 1887 and bought his land there.

Henry E. Heimbaugh came in 1889, worked by the month a year or two and then engaged in business in the Village of Nickerson.

FIRST EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP

Henry Depew was the township's first settler or land-owner.

The first child born in the township was a son to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wogan, early in the '60s.

The first death was that of Mr. Higbie about 1858. He was buried on the hill west from the present Village of Nickerson, but later the remains were removed to the City of Omaha.

The first residence was a log building on the old Depew place. The first frame building was built by Jacob Basler soon after the close of the Civil war.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The first school in Nickerson Township was taught a mile west of the present Village of Nickerson. See educational chapter, and for churches also see index for general chapter on all churches in the county.

VILLAGE OF NICKERSON

This little village is located in section 13 of Nickerson Township, and was platted January 13, 1871, by John I. Blair, for the railroad company. The land was originally purchased from the United States by Henry Depew. It was sold for taxes and the man Herman who bid it in sold to the railroad company for \$500.

The earliest attempt at business at this point was about 1872, when the nearby farmers formed an association and handled grain from a warehouse they erected. Soon thereafter, a postoffice was established and among the early postmasters in charge were O. B. Rippy, R. B. Schneider, W. H. Havens and George E. Herman.

O. B. Rippy opened a general store about 1872. The first blacksmith was Adam Niece, who built a shop in 1887. He sold to "Cal" Lehnier and he, in turn, to Charles Ladd, whose father was an early settler in Washington County.

The grain and stock business finally passed into the hands of W. R. Wilson, and the Nye, Schneider Company got the business in 1888.

R. M. Havens opened a hotel in 1876.

A beer saloon was started early in the history of the village by Christ Basel, but finally he moved his "place" to Hooper.

In the summer of 1892 the commercial interests of Nickerson were: Lumber and Grain—The Nye, Schneider Company.

General Dealers—W. H. Bruner, N. J. Leffler and H. E. Heimbaugh. Blacksmithing—Ladd Brothers.

In the spring of 1892 a fire destroyed a greater part of the business houses.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

From the platting of Nickerson up to 1883 the scholars from this locality had to attend school at the district building a mile to the west of the village. (See educational chapter.)

The Methodist people built the first church building, the same cost \$1,300. (See church chapter.)

PRESENT VILLAGE OF NICKERSON

In the summer of 1920 the commercial and other interests of the village were as follows:

General Merchandise—Seidel-Anderson Company, Farmers' Co-operative Association.

Implements—Freeman Brothers.

Garage—Freeman Brothers.

Grain Elevator—Farmers' Co-operative Association.

Pool Hall—Ross Wickersham.

Hotel—The Havens.

Lumber and Coal—Nye, Schneider Fowler Company, Farmers' Co-operative Association.

Banks—First Bank of Nickerson, Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Hardware and Coal—Same as lumber dealers.

Jeweler—A. B. Crocker.

Barber—John Litz.

Postmaster—C. M. Ward, with one rural free delivery route.

Physicians—Dr. R. C. Byers.

Nickerson was incorporated October, 1910, and among the various village officials may be recalled: H. J. Sidner, 1910-13; Calvin Spangler, 1913-18; A. P. Coulter, 1918; all having been chairmen of the village board. The village clerks have included: C. M. Ward, J. C. Brown, W. L. Seidel and A. P. Coulter.

CHAPTER XXV

CUMING TOWNSHIP

DESCRIPTION—BOUNDARIES—POPULATION—NATIONALITY OF PEOPLE—RAILWAYS—HOMESTEADERS—FIRST SETTLEMENT—FIRST AND EARLY EVENTS—PIONEER SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—VILLAGE OF SCRIBNER—BUSINESS INTERESTS—1920 COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY—MUNICIPAL HISTORY—WATER WORKS—POSTOFFICE HISTORY—PRICE OF FARM LANDS TODAY—PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In the northern tier of civil townships of Dodge County is Cuming, which constitutes all of Congressional Township 20, range 7, east, hence is six miles square. It is south of the Cuming County line; west from Logan, north from Everett and east from Pebble Township. In 1890 this township had a population of 715; in 1900 it had 1,514, including the Village of Scribner; in 1910 it was placed by the United States census as only 1,488, including Scribner. The figures for the present (1920) census have not yet been made public. This subdivision of Dodge County is highly developed by a thrifty set of people, many of whom are foreign born. Many of the early homesteaders laid well the foundations for the present prosperity. They came to a wild, prairie land where nothing had been done to make the scene attractive, save that which Nature had bestowed in the way of wild grass and sweet-scented flowers. It took many years of hard toil upon the part of this band of sturdy pioneers to bring about the scenes and intrinsic value found in the domain today.

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railway crosses the southwest corner of the township, Scribner being the enterprising station point. Cuming Creek and the Elkhorn River course through the township, affording an excellent drainage and water system.

The only town or village within its borders is the Village of Scribner, of which more is given later.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

There were no such things as a government homestead until 1864, hence the earliest to locate within Cuming Township could not avail themselves of such free lands, but had to purchase at government price. The first man to brave the dangers and hardships of frontier life here was B. B. Moore, who with his family came in 1856, locating near Dead Timber. Among the next to settle was James B. Robinson, who claimed land at first in section 21. Subsequently, he became the proprietor of Pebble Creek Roller Mills. Still later he was connected with the Scribner State Bank. His settlement dated from 1859. His brother, William Robinson, came the same year, and remained until 1869, when he moved to Pebble Township and there made an excellent farm home, which today is worth hundreds of dollars per acre.

Thomas Parks and his son, S. B. Parks, came in from Galena, Illinois, prior to the Civil war. Thomas remained two years, moved away, but in 1870 returned again. S. B. Parks entered lands amounting to over 1,000 acres, with College scrip which he possessed.

Before the year 1870, these effected a settlement in this township: E. C. Burns (who later served as postmaster at Scribner) came in 1869,

locating in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 28, where he farmed until 1888, then moved to Scribner to educate his children.

W. L. Golder also came in 1869, settling in section 16, but later availed himself of the homestead act, as applied to returned Civil war soldiers. His claim was in section 30. After a number of years there he retired at Scribner.

James Booth, section 20, came in 1868, as did George Romberg, both entering land in section 22.

J. G. Meyer settled in section 26 in 1869; he was from Germany and came to the country without means and by utilizing the chances given to foreigners, he became wealthy in a few years.

Section 10 was settled and developed largely by Germans who immigrated here in 1869. This colony included such stalwart pioneers as Fred Lucking, A. Van Seggan and A. Gross, all locating on good lands in sections 10 and 3.

J. C. Seeley, who had lived near Fontanelle since 1856, at the close of the Civil war, settled in section 9 of this township.

Sometime during the '60s William Meyer located in section 30. His father and family came at the same time and all took homesteads.

In 1868 Christian F. Miller settled on the northwest of section 34.

About this time other immigrants came to this township as follows: Christian Matwick, section 32; Cleister Kow, in the same section; Louis Swartz, section 18; Wesley A. Conley, section 18; Edward Conley, George Conley, A. H. Briggs, John C. Briggs, William Matson, A. Wilkinson, Newton Pitzer, Hal Christy, Lawrence Skibowsky, John Dren-gus, Joseph Beck, G. W. French, Henry Munke, Otto Pribno, William E. Gammage.

D. Maynard, of section 6, made his settlement in April, 1872, when he became a homesteader.

Frank Brezina homesteaded land in this township in 1876. Later he conducted a hotel at both Scribner and Fremont.

Thomas Hall, deceased many years ago, was among the homesteaders of 1870 and died on his farm in 1887.

Herman Suhr, who later engaged in the farm implement business at the Village of Scribner, became a permanent resident of Cuming Township in the autumn of 1871—year of the Chicago fire.

John Romberg and Christ M. Sasse located in the township in 1868.

Among the settlers recalled as having arrived in 1869, was Gerhard H. Heyne, who located in section 25, but later went to section 24. A German settler named Gerhard Rastede took land in section 27 of this township about that date, too.

FIRST AND EARLY EVENTS

Galena postoffice was established at the house of J. B. Robinson late in the '60s. S. B. Parks was commissioned postmaster and held the office many years and was succeeded by Mrs. Mary S. Dentler, who conducted it until it was discontinued when the railroad was completed through the country.

The first settler was B. B. Moore and family in 1856.

The first child born was J. H. Robinson in 1868.

The first death in the township was J. B. Robinson in 1864.

The earliest marriage was that of S. B. Parks and Mary E. Robinson in 1864.

The first religious services were conducted by the Methodist people in 1870-71.

The pioneer school was taught by Mrs. Mary E. Parks, wife of S. B. Parks, at her own house in the summer of 1871. A schoolhouse was erected in 1873 in the northeast quarter of section 28.

THE VILLAGE OF SCRIBNER

This incorporated place is centrally located in Dodge County, is an important station-point on the former Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley system of railway (now Chicago & Northwestern), twenty-four miles northwest of Fremont. It is also a junction point of the main line and the Albion branch of this railroad; is situated in section 30, township 20, range 7, east.

Pebble was platted in September, 1870, in section 36, of the same Congressional township with the view of securing the coveted railroad,



BUSINESS STREET, SCRIBNER

but its proprietors were unsuccessful in their attempt. Scribner was platted in December, 1870, by John I. Blair, president of the Railroad Company.

The population of Scribner in 1890 was 664; in 1900 it was 827; in 1910 it had increased to 891 and its present population is 1,100. Its population is a mixed one, but largely German. Of its excellent schools, churches and lodges other special topics in this volume will treat at length under their respective headings.

The first building on the town site was raised in the autumn of 1873 by John Rochford. It was a frame building 22 by 40 feet and was at first used as a residence, but later as a barber shop.

Of the pioneer hotel of Scribner let it be stated that it was known as the Clifton House; was built in the summer of 1874 by George Horton. He soon sold to Mrs. Culver, who a year later sold to August English. Early in the '90s it was closed, another better planned hotel having been erected.

The first store in Scribner was the general merchandise stock carried by Gustaf C. Kerkow, later a worthy county clerk of Dodge County.

The harness business was first represented in Scribner by L. H. Neff about one year after the town was started. He continued until 1885 when he sold to F. A. Schulz.

Among other "first events" should be the recording of the birth of Emma Spear, daughter of Lewis Spear and wife, of Scribner.

In 1883 one of the largest flouring mills in Dodge County was put in operation, the same having a capacity of 100 barrels per day. This was built by John M. Diels.

BUSINESS INTERESTS OF 1892

From a publication known as the "History of the Elkhorn Valley," published in 1892, the manuscript of which was submitted to competent local committees and by them approved, gives the following as the business interests at Scribner the summer of that year:

Agricultural Implements—Schnack & Suhr, Sullivan & Boll. Attorneys—A. H. Briggs. Banks—Scribner State Bank, Merchants & Farmers Bank. Blacksmiths—Solomon Spangler, C. White. Creamery—By a stock company. Drugs—A. Lendnick, Herbenthal & Priess. Furniture—C. T. Horton. General Stores—G. J. Milligan, W. Drucker & Co., Gus Martens, F. A. Huston, K. A. Horwich. Hardware—William Gardanier, C. W. Marquedt. Harness Shops—F. A. Schulz and E. A. Nason. Hotels—Clifton, Windsor. Jewelers—J. A. Nason. Lumber—Crowell Lumber Company, J. W. Diels. Livery—W. A. King, William Becker. Millinery—Mrs. W. E. Royce. Meat Markets—Ehler Brothers. Milling—J. M. Diels, Steam Roller Mill. Photographic Studio—Fritz & Good. Physician—Dr. Charles Inches. Newspaper—Scribner News. Societies—Modern Woodmen, Masonic and Grand Army of the Republic.

THE PRESENT (1920) COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Implements—J. O. Milligan, Jr., John Therness, Sol Spangler.

Auto Garages—Service Garage, Nast & Thernes, Scribner Garage, White Front.

Auto Dealers—August Shellenberg.

Banks—First National, Scribner State Bank and Farmers State Bank.

Barber Shops—A. B. Roberston, C. H. Reimers.

Bakeries—Ed Shornshor.

Blacksmith Shops—Henry Polster, Fred Harmel.

Clothing (Exclusive)—John Moller.

Cream Stations—Produce and cream by Emil Follner, E. Hubler.

Cement Blocks—Gus Koplin.

Drugs—Peterson Drug Store, Guy L. Thompson.

Dentists—Dr. B. Davis, Dr. B. Krajicek.

Elevators—Farmers' Co-operative Company, Mercantile Company and the Crowell Grain and Lumber Company.

Furniture—Arthur Furniture Company.

Flouring Mills—Farmers' Co-operative Milling Company.

General Stores—J. O. Milligan, Jr., Peoples' Co-operative Store, J. F. Drenguis Company.

Hotel—The Miller.

Picture Shows—"Crystal" Theater.

Hardwares—F. H. Ranslem & Son, Fred E. Romberg.

Jewelry—Fred Dietz.

Lumber—Same as grain dealers.

Meat Markets—Ferdinand Sievers, John Ehlers.

Milling—Co-operative Farmers' Company.

Newspaper—The Rustler.
 Opera House—L. L. Solls.
 Physicians—Drs. G. Bartlett, E. L. Hustead.
 Photographic Studio—William Fahk.
 Plumbing—Scribner Plumbing and Heating Company.
 Restaurant—Mrs. Margaret Kunce, Ed Shomshor.
 Shoe Repairs—Fred Meyer.
 Veterinary—Dr. Behnard Witt.
 Ice Dealer—Scribner Ice and Light Company.
 Harness—William Balts.
 Wagon Shop—George Stockamp.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY

In 1882 Scribner was incorporated as a village and down to and including the year 1891, the following were elected as its municipal officers:

1882—John M. Diels, Daniel McBain, Will Hassen, trustees; L. H. Neff, clerk.
 1883—J. L. Baker (chairman), J. A. Nason, C. T. Horton, William Kerkow, James Booth, trustees; L. H. Neff, clerk.
 1884—J. A. Nason (chairman), R. C. Hassen, Ernest Borkenhagen, E. Kerkow, A. Berry, trustees; L. H. Neff, clerk.
 1885—J. L. Baker, J. O. Milligan, James Booth (chairman), G. A. Diels, R. Dirshaus, trustees; L. H. Neff, clerk.
 1886—Henry Schnack, John C. Seeley, W. B. Gardanier (chairman), R. Drishaus, N. A. Hagenstine, trustees; L. H. Neff, clerk.
 1887—A. H. Briggs, H. Schnack, N. A. Hagenstine, August J. Albers, R. Drishaus, trustees; F. A. Schulz, clerk.
 1888—C. L. Horton (chairman), S. B. Parks, H. Schnack, F. A. Schulz, Peter Bowen, trustees; W. B. Gardanier, clerk.
 1889—E. F. Blumer, S. B. Parks, Henry Schnack, C. W. Marquedt, E. C. Burns (chairman), trustees; W. K. Fowler, Jr., clerk.
 1890—E. F. Blumer, S. B. Parks, H. Schnack, J. P. Smith (chairman), H. Suhr, trustees; L. A. Seeley, clerk.
 1891—James Booth, J. H. Clausen (chairman), J. M. Diels, John H. Jones, Peter Preiss, trustees; W. H. Weeks, clerk.

From 1891 to the present time the chairmen or mayors have been: 1892—Hal Christy; 1893—Hal Christy; 1894—Hal Christy; 1895 to 1906, _____; 1907—Alex Ross; 1908—Alex Ross; 1909—Alex Ross; 1910—Fred Volpp, who served until 1917, when Charles Arnot served during the terms of 1917-18; the next was Henry Nast, present mayor.

The Clerks have been since 1891: W. K. Fowler, Jr., to 1894; Frank Diels from 1894 to 1895; Hal Christy from 1895 to 1917, when Henry Buehring was elected and is still serving as village clerk.

The present (1920) village officers are as follows: Mayor—Henry Nast; Clerk—Henry Buehring; Treasurer—Hal Christy; Marshal—G. M. Mass; Trustee—Henry Nast (chairman), J. O. Milligan, Jr., Ernest Dau, Fred Volpp, Hans Bowl.

The vote on waterworks and city building propositions was in 1906, when it was carried and such improvements were instituted. At first the improvements included a gas plant, which was conducted till the present private corporation was organized by home capital, and now electric light and a "municipal" ice plant are in successful operation.

The water wells for the waterworks system are four in number and run from 67 to 72 feet deep and land in the strata of gravel, which gives a superior quality of water.

Here also finds a beautiful park, though only partly improved as yet. The public library of the place is supported by state and county tax.

Farm lands in the neighborhood of Scribner range from \$275 to \$400.

POSTOFFICE HISTORY

A postoffice was established at Scribner in the fall of 1874, with William B. Gardanier as postmaster. He was succeeded November 25, 1885, by Jesse A. Nason and he by Edward C. Burns. Since then the postmasters have included the following: Gus Martens, R. H. Schurman, James M. Beaver and present postmaster, Arthur G. Schoeneck, who was appointed June, 1914. It is now a third-class office and has five rural routes, ranging from twenty-five to thirty miles in length.

In August, 1880, Scribner became a money order office, the first order being issued to Alvira Barge, August 2, 1880, in favor of Doyle & Adolph, of New York.

CHAPTER XXVI

COTTERELL TOWNSHIP

ITS BOUNDARY—POPULATION—PIONEER SETTLEMENT—ONCE INCLUDED VILLAGE OF NORTH BEND—GENERAL NATURAL FEATURES AND PRESENT CONDITION OF TOWNSHIP.

This subdivision of Dodge County comprises all of Congressional township 18, range 8 east, and about all of the north half of township 17, of the same range. It is bounded on the north by Ridgeley Township, on the east by Maple and Platte townships, on the south by the south bank of Platte River and on the west by Union Township.

The Town of North Bend, second largest in Dodge County, once within Cotterell civil township. From an early day in the county's history, this subdivision was included in North Bend precinct, but upon the date of "Township Organization" in 1886, the division was made. The present townships of Cotterell and Union were both a part of North Bend precinct.

But few, if indeed any, portion of Dodge County can boast of better soil and improvements than Cotterell, in which township there is but a very small amount of land that can truthfully be classed as "waste land."

POPULATION

The United States census reports give the population of this township in 1890 as 701; in 1900 as 1,194, and in 1910 as 831. The change in extent of territory accounts for the decrease in population largely.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT

The township was named for its first settler—Hon. M. S. Cotterell. In company with James Humphrey, Alexander Morrison and John M. Smith, he came from Ohio and the party brought a steam saw mill with them. Mr. Cotterell claimed a half section of land, including that upon which North Bend now stands. Other members of the party located across the line, west, in Union Township. The date of this settlement was 1857.

In 1858 came George O. Dodge, of section 11. He came in company with his father, and they soon went back to their native country—New England. He enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil conflict and did not return to this township until 1866.

During 1858 another settlement was effected by James Sloss, who entered a quarter section of land near North Bend, he being among the first to make actual improvements in Cotterell township. In 1880 he moved to the village of North Bend, leading a semi-retired life, although he had a landed estate in 1892 amounting to 1,100 acres.

Richard Hooper came in the spring of 1858 and entered a quarter section of wild land four miles northwest of Fremont. Subsequently he took land near Scribner and at other points in Dodge County. He died July 13, 1887.

Robert McVicker, later a loan and insurance agent in North Bend, arrived in Dodge County in the spring of 1864, purchasing a quarter section of land two miles east of the village of North Bend. In 1875 he removed to Peru, Nebraska, lived there till 1885, when he engaged in business at North Bend.

A portion of section 11 was taken up by E. J. Howe, and in the spring of 1866 came Patrick O'Connor to section 22. He and his wife boarded some of the railroad hands in a sod shanty. In 1868 he took a homestead, to which he removed in 1869 and later owned considerable more land.

The same year last named came Thomas F. Keeton, who taught school in the winter of 1866-67. He was variously engaged and finally in 1889 was made the manager of the Farmers' Co-operative Association at North Bend.

A tree-claim and homestead was taken in section 14 in 1867 by John P. Eaton.

Thomas J. Cotterell, a carpenter, came to Dodge County in June, 1867. He was the son of a shipbuilder and was a soldier in the Union ranks in Civil war days. Later he settled in North Bend Village.

Another who made his settlement here in 1867 was Andrew M. Jackson of section 30. The same time came Jacob Miller, who located at Fremont, started a blacksmith's shop and conducted it three years, then went to his farm in section 10, of Cotterell Township.

William J. Gregg located in this township in section 17, in 1867, remained some time with his uncle M. S. Cotterell, and followed school teaching winters. He pre-empted a quarter of section 8 in 1869 and later bought forty acres of land adjoining it.

Another settler should here find prominent mention—Charles R. Ogilvie is referred to. He was later of the firm of Cusack and Ogilvie. He came to this county in April, 1868, and worked at railroading for two years. He then spent many years in the far away West and followed railroading until 1885, then engaged in the newspaper business on the "Flail" in company with C. W. Hyatt. He sold out his interest in 1887 and became the manager of the Farmers Elevator Co.

In 1868, in the spring, came John Tym to section 4. He homesteaded land in this township and later purchased more adjoining it.

John Haun, of section 2, settled in 1868 and became a prominent farmer.

Archibald H. Elson first claimed land on the low flats in Cotterell Township in the autumn of 1868, where he homesteaded, but later changed for land in section 8, where he died in January, 1891, an honored and successful citizen.

Leander Smith dated his settlement in Cotterell Township from the spring of 1869, when he homesteaded eighty acres.

In 1872 John T. Zorn arrived in the township with his parents and located in section 13. In 1876 he went to work for himself and farmed four years in Platte Township, when he bought a farm of his own.

C. W. Hyatt settled on wild land north of the village in North Bend in 1873 but only remained there two seasons.

The same season came George Faist to section 11.

Thomas Acom settled in Cotterell Township in the spring of 1873, and claimed land in section 9, township 17, range 6.

George Mittonberger settled in the spring of 1878 in section 6, remained there seventeen years, when he traded it for a ranch in Holt County, Nebraska; but he never moved there. He conducted a dairy

business until 1891, when he embarked in the livery business at the Village of North Bend.

William H. Divine, section 5, came to Dodge County in the early spring of 1879, locating and purchased over 200 acres of wild land in Maple Creek Valley.

Later settlements were effected by Messrs. Silas M. Stanley, section 29; Charles High, section 28; Albert McGahey in section 10; William Wheeler, section 9; Stedman P. Beebe, section 12, the last named locating on land of his own in 1885.

CHAPTER XXVII

PEBBLE TOWNSHIP

LOCATION — DESCRIPTION — BOUNDARY — RAILROAD — POPULATION — VILLAGES OF CROWELL AND SNYDER — “PEBBLE” NOW DEFUNCT — SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES — MILLING INDUSTRY — THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP.

On the northern boundary line of the county and the second from the west, is Pebble Township, comprising all of Congressional township 20, range 6, east. It is bounded on the north by Cuming County, on the east by Cuming Township, Dodge County, on the south by Ridgeley Township and on the west by Webster Township. The two villages within this township are Crowell and Snyder. The railroads are the main line and Albion branch of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (Northwestern system), which run diagonally through the township.

UNITED STATES CENSUS FOR THREE PERIODS

The United States census returns for the periods of 1890, 1900 and 1910, show the following figures on this township: In 1890 it had 871 population; in 1900 it was 973 and in 1910 it was 990; the returns for the 1920 census have not yet been compiled and made public.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP

Pebble Township is settled by a thrifty class of people of a mixed nationality. The first to locate and make a permanent home was Daniel Beckwith in 1868. Alexander V. Rich took land in section 14, township 20, range 6, east. He homesteaded an “eighty” and was forced to farm a few seasons with no team but oxen and he was thankful to have a good yoke of faithful cattle with which to turn over the virgin sod.

Another 1868 settler was W. T. Cohee, of section 2. He also drove an ox team and owned a few head of cattle. He lived in a sod house for two years and saw all the early-day hardships.

Frederick Molle came to the township in March, 1868, and in May located on his homestead and lived in a dug-out. Subsequently, he engaged in brick-making at the Village of Snyder.

John Herder, section 6, came in 1868, as did Fred G. Becker and Ferdinand Helgenberger.

During 1869 came John N. Sommers to section 30; he filed on eighty acres of government land and within a dozen years became a well-to-do farmer.

Charles C. Sievers, section 20, came to the county in October, 1869, remained one winter at his brother's in Ridgeley Township, and the following March located in Pebble Township. He was a homesteader but later bought other lands.

Casper Gutt, section 28, made settlement here on a homestead in 1869.

Frederick Pilgrim, section 30, also came in 1869 and took a home-
stead.

Fred Zarmsdorf, section, 20, homesteaded here in October, 1869. To the list already given should be added the following settlers who came in the '70s and '80s: Peter J. Flanagan, 1869-70; Herman Wolsleger, section 21; Henry C. Martens, section 20; Charles Moehring, M. C. Blake, August Schilling, Fred Mewis, M. Lehman, M. Fisher, John Meyer, M. Covett, L. Kratz, L. Brunke, J. Yunck, Henry Holl, J. Durst, J. Werblow, Charles Grovier, August Zahn, C. Bilke, Frank Otterman, August Kingbaum, Fred Kingbaum, Christ Wendorf, Ludwig Englebrecht, A. Bauman, Peter Wise, C. Dammus, H. Conrad, Carl Metschke, John Gordon, Henry Swigar, Frank Laird, L. D. Richards, August Schultz, Wilborn Metschke, T. W. Putnam, Fred Steinhofel, John Seeley.

Conrad Schneider came in 1880, and soon erected a mill.

The first persons married in the township were J. Burns and Mary Wright.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

In 1891 this township had seven schools, besides the village school of Snyder.

The first churches here were the Lutheran and Roman Catholic—see Church chapter elsewhere in this work.

AN EARLY MILLING PLANT

In 1869 a flouring mill was placed in operation by J. B. Robinson and Harvey J. Robinson on Pebble Creek and the waters of that stream propelled the machinery. It was built a mile and one-fourth from Scribner and for years was owned by Joseph Preininger. At first it only had one run of stone; in 1871 a second pair of stones were placed in working order and these served until 1886, when a new milling plant was placed on the site of the old original mill. Ten thousand dollars worth of machinery was purchased and the mill had a capacity of fifty barrels per day. As the years went by this mill went out of commission, with many others in this county.

VILLAGE OF PEBBLE—DEFUNCT

What was originally known as Pebble Village was platted September 6, 1870, in section 36, township 20, range 6, east. Its proprietors attempted to induce the railroad officials to construct the railway through that point of the county, but Scribner finally succeeded in securing the railroad. In the '60s there had been a postoffice established at Pebble, but it was discontinued as soon as the railroad was completed. A general merchandise store was about all the business interests this village ever amounted to.

VILLAGE OF SNYDER

Snyder is situated in section 18, township 20, range 6, east, and was platted August 5, 1886, and is a station on the Albion branch of the Northwestern (Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley line) seven miles from the Village of Scribner. It was legally incorporated in 1890 and then, according to the United States census, contained about two hundred people. At this point a grist mill was built in 1880 by Conrad Schneider. In 1881 a few dwellings were erected. In 1886 the grain and lumber

business was represented by Conrad Schneider and the Crowell Grain and Lumber Company. The first general merchandise store was kept by John Bolte in 1883. The hardware business was first represented here by Kammeic Brothers in 1887. They sold to H. Wolslager. The first lumber yard was established by James Jones. Mrs. Katie McGraw established the first inn or hotel at Snyder in 1886. In 1887 Ferdinand Knowsky started a livery business. The first to deal in drugs was William Millenz in 1886. Conrad Schneider was first in the farm implement business. Carl Schinkel opened a beer saloon in 1886. A meat market was started in 1889 by Conrad Nolte.

A postoffice was established at Snyder sometime in the '80s, with Conrad Schneider as postmaster. In 1888 John Kemnitz succeeded him.

A roller flour mill was in operation there in the '90s; fifty barrels was the daily capacity of the mill.

The State Bank of Snyder was formed in 1892, commenced operations August 17, 1892, with Conrad Schneider as its president and John Looschen, cashier.

A good public school building was erected here in 1891 at a cost of \$3,000.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1920

Auto Garages—Seebek Brothers, W. A. Schoeneck.
Banks—Snyder State, Farmers and Merchants.
Barbers—Bettus Siems.
Blacksmiths—Thomas Wyant.
Bakery—James Pateil.
Cream Station—Otto Blyhl.
Drugs—John Godel.
Dray and Truck Lines—Adams & Wolfe, Otto Dollmann, Jo Hall.
Elevators—Farmers Union Milling and Grain Company, Crowell Lumber and Grain Company.
Furniture—Stephen Ehrenberger.
General Dealers—C. J. Schneider, John Bolte & Son.
Farm Implements—C. J. Lennemann.
Hardware—William J. Wolslager.
Harness—George Stengel.
Hotel—Mrs. Prenzlow.
Ice—William Pateil.
Lumber—Farmers Union Milling and Grain Company, Crowell Lumber and Grain Company.
Meat Market—William Pateil.
Milling—The Farmers Union Milling and Grain Company.
Newspaper—The Snyder Banner.
Opera Hall—The "Schneider," W. A. Schoeneck, pool hall.
Restaurant—George Stockman.
Stock Buyer—Henry Bleyhl.
Shoe Repairs—John Moench.
Tailor Shop—Kovarick & Son.
Plumber—John W. Bentz.
Painter—Ernest Roberts.
Contractor and Builder—Gottlieb Hoffmann, W. C. Bohne, August Finke.
Physicians—Dr. George Byers and Dr. Kinyoun.

LODGES, CHURCHES, ETC.

Special general county chapters treat on the churches, lodges, etc. The churches include the Roman Catholic, Emanuel Lutheran and Saint Peter's Lutheran denominations.

The civic societies include the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Modern Woodmen of America.

The postmasters at the Village of Snyder have been as follows: Conrad Schneider, one of the founders of the village; Herman Wolslager, John Cusack, Doctor Pachen, John Zeman and present postmaster, John Bolte, Jr., since 1915.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

Snyder was legally incorporated July 30, 1886, and the mayors have included Conrad Schneider and John Bolte, Sr., who have usually been in charge of the affairs of the sprightly village.

In 1912 the council published a revised ordinance book, and at that date the village officers were: John Bolte, Sr., mayor; Robert Frahm, clerk; J. R. Bolte, treasurer; Albert Wolfe, marshal. Trustees: J. H. Seebeck, Henry Schooner, William J. Wolslager and Battus Siems.

The 1920 village officers are as follows: Mayor, John Bolte, Sr.; clerk, Robert Frahm; treasurer, John Bolte, Jr.; marshal, Herman Seidel, who also acts as street commissioner and water commissioner.

VILLAGE OF CROWELL

This is a small village on the line of the old Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad (now Chicago & Northwestern system), in Pebble Township. It was laid out December 22, 1883, by the Elkhorn Land Company in sections 2 and 11, township 20, range 6, east. Before this platted village was known, there was established to the southwest of this point, what was styled "Oak Springs." In 1873 an office was established three-quarters of a mile to the east of where now stands the Village of Crowell, and its name was Crowell. The postmaster was Hamilton McClintock, and he was succeeded by W. T. Cohee, who was postmaster until January, 1884, and was followed by J. J. King. As soon as a station was established and a depot erected it was named "Crowell," and the postoffice was moved there from the Cohee farm.

The first move to developing the place was in the autumn of 1883, when J. J. King came from Fremont and erected a frame store building and placed on sale a stock of general merchandise.

The same fall (1883) J. L. Baker built a grain warehouse which he continued to run until it was purchased in the spring of 1892 by the Nye, Schneider Company.

In the fall of 1884 C. T. Pulsifer engaged in the grain trade here. Later on he was murdered. The business changed hands several times and in 1893 was in the hands of the Crowell Grain & Lumber Company.

A general store was opened by Fred Mundt in 1884. He was followed by John Mundt, and he by Herman Diers, who continued in trade many years.

Herman Diers built a hotel known as the City Hotel in the autumn of 1884. A livery barn was established in Crowell in 1884 by James Cusick.

A hardware store was built and conducted by John B. Taylor in 1884. A blacksmith shop was started by John Harmal in the spring of 1884.

A schoolhouse was moved in from the country east of Crowell in 1886. It was first erected in 1873, north of the farmhouse of pioneer Cohee, in the northeast quarter of section 2.

BUSINESS INTERESTS IN 1920

Crowell now has only about a hundred population and its business is no more extensive than it was a quarter of a century ago. General merchandise stores, a few small shops, etc., is all the commercial interests amount to at present time. It affords a small trading point for the surrounding farming community, but the heavier trading goes to larger places not far distant.

CHAPTER XXVIII

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

**LOCATION—BOUNDARY—RAILROADS—ORGANIC—EARLY SETTLEMENT—
VILLAGE OF DODGE—POSTOFFICE—INCORPORATION—SCHOOLS AND
CHURCHES—BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT—ROLLER MILLS—COMMERCIAL
INTERESTS IN 1920—POPULATION.**

In the extreme northwestern corner of Dodge County is Webster Township, comprising Congressional township 20, range 5, east, containing 23,040 acres of land. It is bounded on the north by Cuming County, on the east by Pebble Township, on the south by Pleasant Valley Township and on the west by Colfax County. The Albion branch of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad traverses its territory, with a station in the northwest corner of the township known as the Village of Dodge.

POPULATION

The United States census reports for three enumeration periods gave the population of the township as follows: In 1890 it was 1,227, inclusive of the Village of Dodge, which at that time had a population of 338. The 1900 census, 1,393, and in 1910 it was given as only 1,342. The present census is not yet reported.

ORGANIC

The township was organized as a district precinct by the County Board of Commissioners in 1870, but its present boundary lines were not fixed until 1886, when its territory was cut down to conform to the township plan of surveys—six miles square.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

As bounded now, the first settlement in Webster Township was effected by a few Bohemians, Polanders and Germans, in the northern part of the township.

D. C. Westfall came from Illinois in 1871 and took a homestead in section 34 and lived there until 1889, then moved to the "Dodge Farm" in Pleasant Valley Township. Henry Hensel came in at the same date.

J. B. Imsieke located in 1869. Another pioneer of that date was V. Wensel in section 34. Henry Kopitschka, section 20, settled in 1869 and about the same time came John Schodenick, V. Herman, Patrick Delaney, John Schwanke, M. Militz, H. Vakenir, Ernest Busch, James Glenn and others.

Anton Bartosh was among the very earliest pioneers to make a home within the township.

Joseph Brodhun came in 1870, and located in section 6. Later he was associated with the Farmers State Bank at Dodge.

Andrew R. Hasson first located in Pleasant Valley where he homesteaded, but later moved to this township and was postmaster at the Village of Dodge.

Charles G. Williams, of section 22, came to this county in 1879 and purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land where he made a comfortable home. James B. Vickery in section 31, came to the township in 1881, and the following season came his neighbors, John Forney and James M. Atkinson.

The first term of school was taught in a sod house belonging to Andrew Derick, in section 26. (See Educational chapter for further school history.)

The first church in the township was the Lutheran Church in section 14. (See Church chapter.)

Glencoe postoffice was the first established in Webster Township, the date being 1871 and the location section 34. It was named for the early settler, James Glenn, who was its postmaster for twenty-one years, and conducted a general store for a like period.

Ogan postoffice was established in 1887 in section 30. This office was discontinued in 1891; its postmaster was George Whitmore.

VILLAGE OF DODGE

The Village of Dodge is situated in section 8, township 20, range 5, east, and was platted August 10, 1886. This is an enterprising little station point of the Albion branch of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad. The place is surrounded by a handsome, fertile farming district, the original population of which were German and Bohemian. In 1900 the place had a population of 338, in 1905 it was 554, and in 1910 it was placed at 661. As early as 1892 it was an excellent trading point, had a fine roller flouring mill, and handled much grain, live stock and lumber.

A postoffice was established at Dodge more than a mile to the east, in 1872, with Antone Bartosch as postmaster. When the railroad was completed the office was re-established at the new village platting. The first to hold the postoffice—Antone Bartosch—held the office until 1889, when he was succeeded by R. Hasson. The office was made a money order office in April, 1892. Other postmasters have been as follows: The present postmaster, O. A. Stemkraus, was appointed January 1, 1920. There are three rural routes ranging from twenty-six to twenty-nine miles each. This is now a third-class postoffice.

VILLAGE INCORPORATION HISTORY

Dodge became an incorporated village April 19, 1887. The following were members of the village board until 1892:

1887—Charles Woodruff (chairman), Fred Schreiber, G. M. Williams, A. Steufer, Charles Hrabak, trustees; W. Hatton, clerk.

1888—Fred Schreiber (chairman), A. Steufer, W. C. Gorman, Charles Woodruff, Charles Hrabak, trustees; S. Lant, clerk.

1889—W. B. Gardanier (chairman), Charles Hrabak, V. J. Yunek, August Kurz, A. F. Steufer, trustees; Charles Woodruff, clerk.

1890—Charles Hrabak, A. F. Steufer (chairman), Herman Holstein, August Kruz, Charles Woodruff, trustees; G. W. Roas, clerk.

1891—A. R. Hasson (chairman), August Kurz, Joseph Brodhun, L. W. Schlote, H. Quesner, trustees; G. W. Roas, clerk.

1891—L. J. Roubinek, A. R. Hasson, C. A. Manville, W. Hatton, W. A. Blynn, trustees.

(The records are missing from 1892 to 1898.)

1898—L. J. Roubinek, mayor; A. J. Hasson, clerk. 1899—L. J. Roubinek, chairman; Robert Reed, clerk. 1900—L. J. Roubinek, chairman; Robert Reed, clerk. 1901—L. J. Roubinek, chairman; Robert Reed, clerk. 1902—Herman Holstein, chairman; Robert Reed, clerk. 1903—L. J. Roubinek, chairman; Robert Reed, clerk. 1904—Robert Reed, chairman; E. P. Popelar, clerk. 1905—F. G. Kloke, chairman; E. P. Popelar, clerk. 1906—F. G. Kloke, chairman; F. R. Beebe, clerk. 1907—C. W. Hepburn served as chairman until 1912, and James H. Hook served as clerk from 1907 to 1918, when he was succeeded by A. J. Miller, and he in 1918 by the present clerk, Will S. Derr. In 1912 F. J. Srb was elected chairman and served one year and was succeeded by A. Schloser, who in turn in 1917 was succeeded by Thomas Vlogtlane and he was followed in 1920 by J. F. Reznicek.

In 1905 the village voted on a proposition to bond for water works and electric lights. The proposition was carried and bonds for \$8,000 were issued and bonds for \$2,000 issued for an electric light plant, since which time the village has had these modern improvements.

In 1895 it appears from an ordinance book that the chairman was Henry Starmer and the village clerk was then C. C. Whipps.

FIRST AND EARLY BUSINESS INTERESTS

The first business house to open its doors in the Village of Dodge was that of Hilligan & Hrabak, the same being a fair-sized general store. In 1891 this firm built a fine two-story block and continued their business in that.

The first hotel was the Commercial House, built in September, 1886, by W. Krull.

The earliest drug store was that of Dr. Edward Persons.

G. M. Armbruster opened the first hardware of Dodge and George Woytcke was the first blacksmith.

A livery barn was opened for business by A. F. Steufer.

The Crowell Lumber and Grain Company was first to operate in Dodge.

The Congregational denomination was the first to build a church edifice in the village.

In 1887 a large frame hall was erected by Charles Gohr, known as Bohemian Hall.

Grand Army of the Republic was organized here as Post 326, April 12, 1892, by seventeen ex-Civil war soldiers as charter members. They kept the camp-fires burning as long as they had a quorum.

For an account of the banks and newspapers, the lodges, etc., see special chapters for the entire county on these topics.

DODGE VILLAGE CONDITIONS IN 1920

In the summer of 1920 the following were the business factors of the Village of Dodge:

Agricultural Implements (with furniture)—J. F. Yunek. Auto Garages—D. M. Hook, H. Parr, J. G. Vosacek. Banking—First National, and State Bank. Barbers—F. J. Stener and J. W. Ralston. Blacksmiths—G. W. Hormel. Bakery—J. F. Mlnarik. Cream dealers—Farmers Union, A. Kurtz, J. M. Patterson. Drugs—J. W. Bobisud, V. C. Johnson. Elevators—Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company, Crowell Lumber and Grain Company, Farmers Union Grain and Lumber Company. Furni-

ture—F. J. Srb. General dealers—Ryan & Co., Farmers Union Company, and J. F. Reznicek. Hardware—J. C. Nitz, Musil & Weidner. Harness—Ben Lehman. Ice Dealers—(see Meat Markets). Millinery—Mrs. W. S. Derr. Jeweler—A. Schlosser. Meat Markets—R. J. Zaloudek and Fred Dramel. Newspaper—The Criterion, McFarland & Son. Restaurant—William Parr, F. J. Steiner, V. J. Yunek, Jo Bicak, J. F. Minarik. Stock Dealer—William Schulte. Veterinary Surgeon—Dr. J. S. Karnik. Physicians—Doctors Guidinger, F. B. Patterson. Photographer—C. Brazda.

The churches include the German Catholic, German Lutheran, the Baptist and Congregational denominations.

CHAPTER XXIX

ELKHORN TOWNSHIP

This civil township derives its name from the fact that its eastern border is washed by the waters of the Elkhorn River. It is situated in the extreme southeastern part of the county, and comprises parts of ranges 8 and 9 in township 17. On its north is Nickerson Township and Washington County; on the east is Washington County; on the south is Douglas County, and on the west is Platte Township. Originally, the boundary line between this township and Washington County was the Elkhorn River, but by an act of the Legislature in 1875, it was changed to conform to section lines regardless of the river, as it made great trouble in the assessment of lands.

Several small lakes, fed by living springs, are found in this township. Here are to be found fish, especially the wall-eyed pike species.

Rawhide Creek courses through this township, entering from the west in section 18, township 17, range 10, flowing southeasterly three miles and then empties into the Elkhorn River. The topography of this portion of Dodge County is quite flat, as the bottom lands divide the Platte and Elkhorn rivers.

The railroads are the Union Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern railways.

The population of the township in 1890 was 412; in 1900 it was 513, but in 1910 it had fallen off to 442. The present census returns (1920) have not yet been made public, but probably will show little increase.

ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

The following is an account of many persons who came to this township for the purpose of making a permanent settlement between 1856 down to 1887, when the territory was well taken by actual settlers.

Elkhorn Township was first settled by Thomas Lee in 1856. He located in the northwest quarter of section 19, and there built him a cabin. At that place he lived about twenty-five years and then moved to Wahoo, where he soon died.

Albert Johnson, of section 19, township 17, range 9, came to Dodge County in the fall of 1857 and made a settlement and later became prominent in the development of his part of Dodge County. He worked at the carpenter's trade in New York until 1877, then had made enough to come back and make the desired improvements on his land in this township.

John A. Close, Union soldier of the Civil war from Wisconsin, after that great conflict had ended sold his property in Wisconsin and moved to section 26 of Elkhorn Township, Dodge County, Nebraska.

In 1863 Elijah G. Brugh, later of Fremont, came in 1863 to this county and was then but a sixteen-year old lad. He followed freighting across the western plains for four years, at a time when all was wild and dangerous. After having his fill of such a life he settled down on his land which was then all covered with a luxuriant growth of prairie grass.

Joseph Snyder, of section 16, came to Dodge County in the winter of 1865, establishing the first shoe shop in Fremont. Eight years later he

bought his farm, going direct from the shoe shop to the plow field, where he made a successful and worthy farmer.

Section 14 was originally settled in by Montgomery Pollock, who came here in 1866. A part of his land he purchased and another portion he got through the United States liberal homestead law.

George Close came into section 25, in 1867, accompanied by his parents. He remained at home until he was of age, and then bought and also homesteaded land of his own.

Adam Hindmarsh, of section 19, settled here in 1869, first living fifteen years in section 30, then sold out, moving to section 19.

Another settler in section 16 was William H. Hawley, who came in 1871. He located at Fremont as a contractor and builder. He commenced his farming operations in 1880.

About 1870-71 a colony of Scandinavians located in the eastern part of Elkhorn Township. This company was made up mostly of homesteaders, and as soon as they proved upon their lands, sold out and relocated in Burt County, near Oakland, on account of better religious privileges. Among this colony was Jonas Johnson, who remained ten years, took a homestead and bought other pieces of land.

At the same time came John Johnson, settling on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 17, range 10.

Andrew Johnson homesteaded a part of section 26, sold and bought in section 25, later owned by George Close.

William Harkness was another early settler. He came to section 24, township 17, range 9, and homesteaded in 1866.

John N. Foye homesteaded in 1866, proved up and left the county.

Joseph Lamberson settled in section 33-17-9 on July 4, 1866, and died in 1880.

F. G. Parcell located in section 15 at Parcell's Lake.

John Castle homesteaded in section 30, township 17, range 10, about 1869. He died on his place in 1877.

Mrs. R. A. Cottle, of section 30, township 17, range 9, was among the very earliest pioneers of the township. Her husband operated the old stage station on the military road which passed her house. It was also an old freight ranch and had much interesting history connected with it.

Isaiah Crist, section 36, came to Dodge County in 1872 and took eighty acres of wild land.

Charley Johnson, of section 11, came to the township in 1874. At first he worked by the month a year or more, then rented land, and was driven from the farm by the ravages of the grasshoppers and went to Fremont and clerked in a store. Later he returned to his farm which finally consisted of a half section.

Other settlers were Samuel C. Wynn, section 28; Bertel Frandsen, section 22; first located in Fremont where he engaged in the dyeing business. Two years later he took up a homestead; also Gustavius G. Going, of section 33, came to this county in 1880. He located in Fremont and handled cattle, later engaging in the restaurant business.

The schools and churches of this part of Dodge County are mentioned in special chapters on such subjects elsewhere in this volume.

An Omaha man named Fauss came to this township and undertook to excavate a canal, and utilize the water power of the Elkhorn River for the purpose of operating a mill for grain grinding. But for various reasons this seemingly worthy enterprise failed to materialize.

CHAPTER XXX

HOOPER TOWNSHIP

ITS BOUNDARY—DESCRIPTION—POPULATION—ORGANIZATION—RAILROADS—FIRST SETTLEMENT—LATER SETTLERS—VILLAGE OF HOOPER—BUSINESS BEGINNINGS—ORIGINAL FLOUR MILL—COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, 1920—MUNICIPAL HISTORY—WATERWORKS.

On the east line of Dodge County and the second from the northern line is Hooper civil township, which contains all of congressional township 19, range 8, east, or 23,040 acres of land. The township is bounded on the north by Logan Township, on the east by Washington County, on the south by Nickerson Township, and on the west by Everett Township. The German element obtains almost wholly here and has from the first settlement. The United States census in 1890 placed this township at 569 inhabitants. The same authority gave it in 1900 as 1,439, including the two villages of Hooper and Winslow. In 1910 the population was 1,496. At the last named date the Village of Hooper had 741 and Winslow had 99.

ORGANIZATION, RAILROADS, ETC.

Hooper was organized into a separate precinct (as then called) very early in the '70s. Its precinct and later its township government has been managed fully up to the standard of other Dodge County sub-divisions.

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad (Northwestern System) passes through this township with stations and villages named Hooper and Winslow. For the history of these see later.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

The first man to locate in this township was Hiram H. Ladd, who came to section 30, in 1856. He it was who built the first house in the now famous Elkhorn Valley, north of Fontanelle.

The next pioneers were Jerry Denslow, Jr., accompanied by his mother, a widow at the time, to Dodge County in 1856. The son was only eleven years of age. The mother pre-empted a quarter section of land at Fontanelle.

John Osterloh came to section 8 in 1858. As soon as the homestead law came into effect in the '60s, he took him a homestead. The same year, 1858, W. C. Hecker came to the township. He was a single man and took eighty acres of land upon which he subsequently made excellent improvements. Another settler in 1858 was Christ Henneman.

Charles Baker located in Hooper Township in the '70s. He came to Dodge County with his parents in 1860, locating near Nickerson.

In 1861 came George Wagner to section 11.

Jacob Schwab, section 4, came in the spring of 1861 with his parents, who settled in section 9, where the father homesteaded a quarter section of land.

Albert Wagner came in 1861 to section 11, also Adam Schwab and Henry Schwab, Jr.

In 1863 George Weigle settled on Logan Creek. He remained on his farm until 1890, then moved to the Village of Hooper. At the same time came Edward Fleischhauer and claimed land rights on Logan Creek.

Henry Busch located in section 9. He came with his father to Fontanelle in 1862. Two years later Henry moved to Hooper Township.

The year 1864, first year in which homesteads were to be taken, saw a very heavy immigration in this part of Dodge County. Oswald Uehling took his homestead that year; others settled there, including Henry Penning, Jr., James F. Briggs, August J. Heller, Martin Lutthers, Christ Basler, John Phelps, W. H. Patterson, G. W. Wolcott, Chris Kroger, R. A. Calkins, William Hartung and A. Y. Sutton.

LATER SETTLERS

While the names of all the persons who invaded this township cannot be here named, it is certain that in addition to those already mentioned came Jacob Lurk, Nicholas Parkert, in 1868; Winfield S. Bishop, 1870; J. H. Caldwell, John M. Kreader and Samuel Kreader, in 1871; Thomas Bullock, 1872; Charles Bayer, who later moved to Hooper Village and engaged in the pottery business; also W. H. Aldrich and Carl Geiser, settlers in 1873.

Jacob C. Schaffer effected his settlement in the township in 1876; Charles Diehl, of section 23, came in 1885, and later moved to Nickerson Township; John Haje, section 26, moved to the township in 1890.

Great has been the transformation of the scenes of Hooper Township since the days of the Civil war period, when all was wild and undeveloped. The land is all taken up and finely improved by a thrifty class of Germans and other European peoples. The villages are enterprising, and though not large, are just such places as farmers desire in their communities. The churches, schools and all that is dear to the average father and mother are here found in all of their latter-day excellence.

VILLAGE OF HOOPER

This enterprising, thrifty-going incorporation in Hooper Township is in the eastern part of Dodge County and is within Congressional township 19, range 8, and is in sections 17 and 20. It was named for a prominent railroad official of an early date. The winding Elkhorn River courses its way along the eastern boundary of the village, making the scenery really beautiful. The main portion of the place is nestled at the foot of a high bluff. It was platted by that great "railroad king," Hon. John I. Blair, of New Jersey, who had so much to do with building the Northwestern, Illinois Central Railroad, and was the president of Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad Company.

The United States and state census reports show that its population at various periods was as follows: In 1890 it was 670; in 1892 it had grown to 800; in 1900 it was 840, but in the next decade it decreased to 741, but at the present it is estimated at about 1,000.

Special chapters on the schools, lodges, churches and banks of Dodge County will contain such topics for the Village of Hooper, hence are not further mentioned in this chapter.

BUSINESS BEGINNINGS

Aside from the railroad depot and buildings, the first house in Hooper was one built by Myers & Sherman in 1871, and in it was kept a general merchandise stock for a half dozen years. In reality, the earliest

house on what became the village plat of Hooper, was that built for a residence by O. A. Heimbaugh. This gentleman built the first grain warehouse and started a lumber yard.

The first schoolhouse was hauled in from a district west of the village platting.

James Caldwell was the pioneer blacksmith.

The first merchandise sold at Hooper was by George W. Pew.

Asa Briggs was the first station-master and a most capable man he was and did much toward aiding the first business interests of Hooper.

Hotel No. 1 at Hooper was built in 1870 by August Koppelcom, and later was styled the Tillman House.

The first exclusive hardware store was kept by Charles Eisley, in 1871. He continued until 1881 and sold to Jack Dorsey, who in turn



CITY HALL, HOOPER

sold to A. F. Bott & Co., and finally they sold to Peague & Uehling. In 1892 the business was handled by the firm of Uehling & Monnich.

The first to handle drugs was G. S. Peyton, 1873-4. He remained in trade until 1889.

The first furniture dealer was Charles Buchholz, in 1875.

ORIGINAL FLOUR MILL OF HOOPER

The Hooper Roller Mills were first built on Logan Creek by A. C. Briggs, but owing to the unsteady current of water, the expense of keeping up the mill-dam, etc., it was sold to Oswald Uehling, who moved the plant to Hooper in 1888, converting it into a roller process mill. It had six rolls, giving a daily capacity of seventy-five barrels. It was run by an eighty-horsepower steam engine. In 1889 a large grain elevator was constructed alongside the mill and the two were covered with galvanized iron sheeting. It produced large quantities of excellent family flour that found ready sale all the year round in Dodge and adjoining counties. This mill cost (in cheap times) \$20,000.

The milling interests of Hooper are now (1920) in the hands of the Hooper Milling & Grain Company.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—1920

Agricultural Implements—A. E. Tunberg.
Auto Garages—Dau & Son, Anton Tunberg, Ewald & Schwab.
Banks—The First National and Dodge County Bank.
Barber Shops—S. L. Whitcomb, Frank A. A. Sellman, E. R. Talley.
Bakery—F. H. Crisman.
Cream Station—Peter Eberhard, C. S. Basler, manager of Beatrice Creamery.
Cement Blocks, etc.—Alfred Stroh.
Confectionery—R. R. Marshall, F. H. Crisman.
Drugs—L. E. Davies, E. L. Geisert.
Dentists—Drs. J. Sherman Zellers, Howard C. N. Ralph.
Elevators—Latta Grain Company, Farmers Union Co-operative Company, Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company.
Electric Light Supplies—Frank Basler.
Feed Store—Julius Bott.
Furniture—Buchholz Brothers.
Grocers (exclusive)—Peter Eberhard, Jacob Sanders.
General Dealers—H. Cullamore, A. H. Harms, Uehling & Cahoon.
Hotel—“Hooper Inn.”
Hardware—Olson Hardware Company (G. S., A. G. and O. G. Olson), E. H. Schwab.
Harness Shop—Martin Martinsen.
Jewelry—William M. Kusel, John Ring.
Ice Dealer—The municipal plant, called the “Hooper Ice Company.”
Lumbermen—Farmers Union Co-operative Company, Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company.
Laundry—Minnie Marlinsen.
Meat Market—R. Stroh, Uhlig Market.
Mills—Hooper Milling and Grain Company.
Millinery—Mrs. John Feinaigle.
Newspaper—Hooper Sentinel, by Herbert T. Ring.
Opera House—Tilson’s Opera House, Mrs. Annie Tilson, proprietor.
Physicians—Drs. M. T. Zellers, J. Howard Heine, Clinton D. Heine, B. B. Hauser.
Photographs—P. Traulsen.
Plumber—William Parkert.
Pantatorium—A. J. Wiswall, proprietor.
Photoplay House—Sanders & Shaffer.
Real Estate—Bernard Monnich.
Restaurant—Mrs. C. W. Tilson.
Telephone Company—The Hooper, M. E. Shipley, manager.
Tailor—J. E. Stipsky.
Veterinary—P. Simonson, Charles M. Elliott, Doctor Darling.
Other branches of trade include the “Standard” Oil Station, the extensive brick works by the Builders Brick Manufacturing Company, J. Schole, shoe repair shop, and H. Hogroef, blacksmithing, and the new works of the Hudkins Auto Body Company. The proprietor of this concern is Perry Hudkins. Perhaps one of the best enterprises, and the most far-reaching in its trade, is the serum making plant near the village and which is known far and near, through its circulars and its numerous traveling salesmen.

MUNICIPALITY OF HOOPER

Hooper was legally incorporated and placed under a board of trustees in October, 1876. The first board consisted of the following gentlemen: A. D. Harwood (chairman), William Pellens, E. H. Aris, Peter Dressen, John Beebe, trustees; George B. Parsons, clerk. By years the boards have been made up as follows:

1877—A. D. Harwood (chairman), William Pellens, E. H. Aris, John Heimrich, Charles F. Eisley, Jacob Lurk, trustees; George B. Parsons, clerk.

1878—John Heimrich (chairman), Jacob Lurk, George F. Heine, C. F. Eisley, W. A. G. Cobb, trustees; George B. Parsons, clerk.

1879—W. J. Smith (chairman), H. Steen, Peter Dressen, C. F. Eisley, E. H. Aris, trustees; Goethe B. Parsons, clerk.

1880—E. Van Buren (chairman), E. H. Aris, H. Steen, George F. Heine, C. F. Eisley, trustees; Henry H. Looschen, clerk.

1881—E. Van Buren (chairman), E. H. Aris, C. F. Eisley, George F. Heine, Chester L. Morse, trustees; H. H. Looschen, clerk.

1882—O. A. Heimbaugh (chairman), John Henrich, Carl Kroeger, C. L. Morse, Henry H. Looschen, trustees; C. C. Stanley, clerk.

1883—O. A. Heimbaugh (chairman), John Henrich, Henry H. Looschen, Carl Kroeger, E. Van Buren, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1884—F. M. Tillman, chairman; A. M. Spooner, H. H. Looschen, John Dern, John F. Heine, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1885—Same as for 1884.

1886—F. M. Tillman (chairman), John Dern, E. H. Aris, John F. Heine, G. S. Peyton, trustees; W. A. Crandall, clerk.

1887—F. M. Tillman (chairman), William F. Basler, Charles Buchholz, John Dern, John F. Heine, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1888—John F. Heine (chairman), Louis Keller, W. F. Basler, G. Thomsen, E. Fleischhauer, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1889—F. M. Tillman (chairman), Ed Fleischhauer, John F. Heine, Louis Keller, Carl Kroeger, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1890—F. M. Tillman (chairman), Ed Fleischhauer, John F. Heine, Louis Keller, W. S. Basler, trustees; T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1891—J. F. Briggs, John F. Heine, Louis Keller, E. W. Renkin (chairman); T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1892—John F. Heine, Louis Keller, Carl Kroeger, E. W. Renkin (chairman), T. W. Lyman, clerk.

1893—E. W. Renkin, chairman; H. H. Looschen, clerk.

1894—E. W. Renkin, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1895—E. W. Renkin, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1896—J. F. Heine, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1897—J. F. Heine, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1898—J. F. Heine, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1899—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1900—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1901—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1902—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1903—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1904—John Hough, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1905—Jacob Sanders, chairman; Henry H. Looschen.

1906—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. G. Thompson.

1907—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. G. Thompson.

1908—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. G. Thompson.

1909—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. G. Thompson.
 1910—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. A. Hecker.
 1911—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. A. Hecker.
 1912-18—Jacob Sanders, chairman; W. A. Hecker.
 1918—Wm. G. J. Dau, chairman; Stephen Broene.
 1919—Wm. G. J. Dau, chairman; Stephen Broene.
 1920—Perry Hudkins, mayor; Charence Dahl.

The 1920 officers of the village are as follows: Mayor—Perry Hudkins; clerk—Clarence Dahl; treasurer—Henry Schroeder; the above and Edwin Edelman and William E. Frock are of the board.

The village now has an indebtedness of water bonds amounting to \$6,900; of town hall bonds, \$8,000.

Electric lights are furnished by the Hooper Electric Light Company.

It is estimated carefully that the present census will give Hooper a population of 1,000.

WATERWORKS

Hooper was provided with a splendid waterworks system in 1890, at an expense of \$5,600, which was the best outlay ever made by any corporation in the history of Nebraska. Fifty "points" or drive wells were put in and these furnished an abundance of the purest water. A pumping plant forced the water to a tank on the nearby bluff, the same having a capacity of 32,000 gallons. With a volunteer fire company of hook and ladder the village has been safe against great fires, which was not true prior to the construction of this practical system of waterworks.

The first five years the village had a contract with Mr. Uehling, proprietor of the roller flouring mills, by which he furnished steam power for forcing the water to the tank on the bluffs overlooking the village from the west.

VILLAGE OF WINSLOW

Winslow was platted in 1906. Its present population is about 275. It has a German Lutheran Church, mentioned elsewhere in detail. The village was incorporated May 28, 1909. It has a volunteer fire department, whose chief is now Julius Borcherbing. Electric lights are furnished by the plant at Fremont. The 1920 village officers include the following: C. J. Kruse, chairman; O. H. Black, clerk; W. A. Lallman, treasurer; other members of the board are H. P. Weitkamp and Fred Borcherbing.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, ETC.—1920

Banks—The Winslow State Bank, The Farmers State Bank.
 General Merchandise Stores—Lallman Brothers; C. J. Kruse.
 Grain Elevators—Farmers' Union Co-operative Association; Nebraska-Iowa Grain and Coal Company.

Lumber Dealers—Handled by the grain men of the village above named.

Hardware and Furniture—H. P. Weitkamp.

Blacksmithing—Chris Martinsen.

Cream Buyers—E. M. Fletcher.

Druggists' Sundries—O. R. Marks.

Postmaster—O. R. Marks.

Garage—Schmidt & Son.

Livery and Draying—Fred Borcherbing.

Soft Drinks—Henry Kruse; also runs a pool hall.

CHAPTER XXXI

EVERETT TOWNSHIP

BOUNDARIES—ORGANIC—POPULATION—SETTLEMENT—FIRST EVENTS—
SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—POSTOFFICE—GENERAL CONDITION TODAY
—LAND VALUES, ETC.

Everett, one of the centrally located townships of Dodge County, is the second subdivision from the east as well as from the north side of the county, and comprises all of Congressional township 19, range 7, east. While it is without a village or railway station, the Northwestern (old Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railway) traverses the territory from the southeast to the northwest, between the stations of Hooper and Scribner, in adjoining townships. The township is bounded by Cuming Township on the north, Hooper on the east, Maple on the south and Ridgeway on the west.

ORGANIC

Everett Precinct (now township) was organized in 1871, and at that time included much more territory than at present, its present lines being defined in 1886, when "Township Organization" obtained in Dodge County.

POPULATION OF TOWNSHIP

The population of this township at various periods has been as follows: In 1890 it had 680; in 1900 it had 612; in 1910 it had but 546. Its 1920 figures have not yet been made public by the census enumerators.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

J. Monnich had the honor of being the first man to locate in Everett Township. He came in 1857 from Iowa to Cuming County, Nebraska, in the fall of 1856, and the next spring to this township.

A son of the first settler, Herman Monnich, located in section 1. He took a squatter's claim in 1857 and built a log cabin which he covered with a thatched roof. Their nearest mill was at Fort Calhoun—forty miles away.

In 1864 came Martin Uehling, of section 2. He took land which later made up a part of his 400 acres in one well-improved farm.

John Raasch located here in 1865.

Christopher Kroeger located in 1867 in section 3 with his parents, he at the time being but a lad in his teens.

Peter Bodewig, of section 26, came to the township with his parents, who were homesteaders, in 1869. The same season came John Mohr. He homesteaded and saw many hardships. By trade he was a carpenter.

John H. Wenkel, section 14, located in 1869. John Wagner claimed a part of the same section of land that year. John Bodewig, father of Jacob Bodewig, purchased an eighty-acre tract of land in the township in 1869 and improved the same.

Section 29 had for a settler in 1870, Edward Gamble; also August Schroeder, of section 8, was another homesteader that year.

Theodore Windhausen, section 14, came in 1871. He worked by the month for a couple of years, then purchased eighty acres of land where he made for himself an excellent home.

John H. Dahl, section 18, came to the township in 1872. He first located on Maple Creek, section 12, of Cotterell Township, where he homesteaded eighty acres. He moved to another place later on.

Charles Schroeder came to section 18 in 1872.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-three found Gustaf Nast in section 10 of Ridgeway Township, where he leased land three years, then moved to Everett township. Herman Bohling settled near Hooper, worked by the month several years and then bought land in the township and made a comfortable home.

James P. Lamberson settled in 1873; he worked and rented land about ten years and then purchased a farm.

James Bradbury came to Dodge County in 1874, first locating at Fremont, where he followed the trade of a carpenter one year, then moved to Everett Township and there leased land three years, after which which he purchased an eighty-acre tract.

Other pioneers in the township whose names should not be overlooked were: Peter Eberhard, section 21, 1875; Nicholas Mohr, section 19, 1875; Martin Lutthers, section 18, 1876; James G. Gamble, 1876, to section 27; Carl and Ernest Axen, two brothers, settled in section 7 in 1883. Others of an early date in the '80s were: James Murray, John Seeley, Carl Schoenick, Fred Wendt, Christ Matwick, John E. Erb, William Radkie, H. Wandle, Carl Shoenfeldt, August Koppel, John Mueller, N. H. Meir, R. D. Kelley, A. J. Hall, Joseph Moser.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The first school held in the township was in section 34 in 1868. It was taught by Mary Weber.

Concerning the schools and churches of the township the special chapters on these topics will be found elsewhere in this volume.

FIRST IMPORTANT EVENTS

The first settler was Jared Monnich, in 1857.

The first birth was a pair of twins, girls, born to Mr. and Mrs. Jared Monnich, in 1857. The mother of these twins died in the autumn of 1857, hers being the second death recorded in the township.

The first death was that of a government surveyor, who was killed by lightning in the summer of 1857 and buried in section 1, the site of a later cemetery.

Jared Munderloch built the first frame house in the township.

POSTOFFICE

Everett postoffice was established about 1870, with S. D. Pickard as postmaster. Henry Block was postmaster in the early '90s. A small general store was conducted at that point several years.

IN 1920

After the toils and perplexities of more than three-score years, for the first and second generations of men who have had to do with the

development of this goodly agricultural section, one today finds a charming country where land ranges from \$150 to \$300 per acre and is a good investment at these seemingly high prices. If one could view the vast hundreds of thousands of tons of various farm commodities that have been harvested from the soil of this inland subdivision of Dodge County with the coming and going of more than sixty years since its first settler invaded its domain, it would indeed be a wonderful amount to behold. This includes hay, grain, stock and vegetable growth.

CHAPTER XXXII

RIDGELEY TOWNSHIP

LOCATION—BOUNDARIES—POPULATION—ORGANIZATION—SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—RIDGELEY POSTOFFICE, ETC.—WEBSTER POSTOFFICE—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS—MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY—EARLY SETTLEMENT OF TOWNSHIP.

Second from the west and also from the north line of Dodge County, comes Ridgeley Township, which is constituted of Congressional township 19, range 6. It is bounded on the north by Pebble Township, on the east by Everett Township, on the south by Cotterell and on the west by Pleasant Valley. Strictly speaking, this is one of the truly inland subdivisions of Dodge County, as it is without railroad or hamlet. Its chief trading point and market place is Scribner, while Crowell and Dodge villages are not far distant from parts of the township's territory.

POPULATION

The United States census gives the population in 1890 as being 807; in 1900 it was 847, and in 1910—ten years later—it had decreased to 675, while the present (1920) enumeration has not yet been made public.

ORGANIZATION

What is now known as Ridgeley Township was formed as a separate township when the county was placed under township organization in 1886. The first election after it was a "precinct" in government, was held in section 28, at Mat Robert's house. The township affairs have been well managed and is today fully up to the Dodge County township standard.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The pioneer school was kept in 1871 and some of the scholars were over twenty-one, but many things illegal then went for lawful. For school history see Educational Chapter elsewhere in this work.

The earliest church in this township was the Evangelical Lutheran, formed in 1874. See Church Chapter for details.

POSTOFFICES

The first postoffices of this township were Ridgeley and Webster. The former was established in 1868 with A. Holbrook as postmaster. In 1882 it was removed to the home of Patrick Owen, remained a few years and then rotated back to Mr. Holbrook, his wife being made postmistress. It was discontinued and after a time re-established. It was about 1885 that it was located in section 26, when H. L. Shomsher was postmaster. He also conducted a country store at this point. Mail was received tri-weekly on a mail route from Fremont to Webster.

Webster postoffice moved from place to place. In the early '90s it was on the extreme western line of the township, with Isabelle Honey as postmistress, whose husband was a mail carrier, and ran a small general store in connection with the postoffice. This office was established in 1870 at the pioneer home of F. C. Scott, who served seven years, when John Ferguson took the office and it was then removed to Pleasant Valley Township. Other changes were made in its location until it was finally abolished.

FIRST SETTLERS

In an account of this part of Dodge County found in the volume entitled "History of the Elkhorn Valley," published about 1891, there is found the following account of the early settlement in this township. It seems to have been corrected and approved by competent committeemen, hence as such events are unchangeable, we will assume the statements made therein to be correct at this time:

To have been the first settler to invade and make his permanent abiding place in so splendid and highly fertile domain as the Township of Ridgeley is composed was indeed an honor to be appreciated by any man. To such honor, the record says, is attached the name of Frank M. Tillman, who located by right of pre-emption in the northeast quarter of section 26, in June, 1868—fifty-two years ago. He and several others brought their families from the Lake Superior country. Mr. Tillman proved up and continued to cultivate his land until 1880 when he moved to the Village of Hooper and purchased a hotel property, conducted it for a time, after which his son, Frank, took over the property and became landlord.

Vangilder Banghart, section 28, homesteaded eighty acres in 1868. With others, this pioneer homesteader saw great hardships for a decade or more when prosperity smiled upon his efforts. Henry Banghart arrived the year last named as did Isaac Banghart, claiming land in section 28. At one time he sold lumber and bought grain in the Village of Scribner. Peter Therens and John Mohr came to the township to effect their settlement the same year.

About 1869 the following made settlement in the township: James M. Cruickshank, section 31; John Eckroat, section 21; Daniel Jones, John Yosten and a few others came. In 1871 came Thomas H. Heywood to section 10.

Old Mr. Berriman homesteaded in section 30; he died many years ago. Others settlers in this goodly township were: Nicholas Reise, section 24; Henry Sievers, section 18, in 1869 and in 1890 was counted one of the richest men in the township; A. L. Holbrook, section 28, came in 1869 and sold out in 1882 and moved to Kansas. August English settled here in the '70s in section 7, and died in 1887. William Herman located in section 6 in 1870. D. Stagerman came at about the same date; also Mr. Schuler of section 8. Dr. Thomas Street and Matthew Thernis were pioneers.

In the grasshopper days—the times that tried men's souls—lands were offered at \$1 per acre, but fortunate indeed for the owners, no buyers could be found to take it off their hands. This land is today selling as high as \$300 per acre in several instances.

Among the first events in this township may be mentioned the birth of August, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Tillman, born in August, 1870. He was beyond question the first child born in the township.

OTHER ITEMS

The German speaking farmers of this vicinity organized a strong insurance company known as the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, in 1885.

Pebble Creek Farmers' Club commenced its operation in about 1885 and in 1888 in section 11 was built a large two-story frame hall building. In this building was conducted the business of the Mutual Insurance just mentioned. This club had in 1890 over 200 excellent farmers enrolled on its books as regular members.

A branch of the Farmers' Alliance had headquarters at what was known as the "Red School House."

CHAPTER XXXIII

UNION TOWNSHIP

**LOCATION—BOUNDARY—ORGANIZATION—FIRST DEATH—FIRST BIRTH—
FIRST LAND PLOWED—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES—SETTLEMENT—
SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, ETC.—POPULATION.**

Union Township is the extreme southwestern civil township in Dodge County, and comprises all of township 18, range 5, east, and a small portion of township 17, of the same range. It is bounded on the west by Colfax County, on the north by Pleasant Valley Township, Dodge County, on the east by Cotterell Township, and on the south by the Platte River and Saunders County.

The Union Pacific Railroad courses through the township from east to west, following the meanderings of the Platte River largely.

Before 1886 when township organization obtained in Dodge County, this was within what was known as North Bend Precinct. The rule of the new law was to have each civil township conform to the lines of the surveyed township of six miles square, and this holds good in Dodge County, except in places along the Platte River, where a part of other townships are included.

POPULATION

According to the United States census returns this township had at various periods a population as follows: In 1890 it was 660; in 1900 it was 723, and in 1910 it had decreased to 633. The 1920 figures have not been made public as yet.

FIRST EVENTS

The first death in the township was the wife of pioneer George Young, December 20, 1856.

The first white child born here was Seth W. Young, in November, 1856—also the first birth in Dodge County.

The first furrow turned in the township by a plow was the garden patch of Robert Miller, in the fall of 1856.

The first religious services in the township were held by Rev. Isaac E. Heaton at a private house. He was the pioneer Congregational minister who founded the Fremont Congregational Church.

FIRST SETTLERS

Union Township has the distinction of being the first place where Dodge County's pioneer settlement was made—Union and Cotterell townships had the first, or 1856-57 colonies of immigrants within their borders. July 4, 1856, was "commencement day" for the county, for it was on that date that the newcomers camped and got their breakfast where now stands the thriving City of North Bend.

This colony consisted of Robert Miller and family, and his brother, John, with his family; George Young and family; George McNaughton

and family; William and Alexander Miller, single men and brothers of Robert and John Miller, also the sister Elizabeth, who became Mrs. Ely, of Fremont. (See account of colony in history of North Bend.)

Robert Miller located in what is now Union Township, in section 12.

William Miller settled later in Sarpy County, Nebraska, and Alexander in Utah. McNaughton becoming disheartened after a few days returned to his old home in the East. George Young remained and became one of the county's well-known citizens. He chose a part of section 12 for his home. His son, James R., when old enough took land in section 11.

J. Mason Smith, a farmer of section 12, came to the county June, 1857, with Mathew S. Cotterell, Alexander Morrison and James Humphrey, who brought with them a steam sawmill. (See North Bend history.)

In 1859 Michael Johnson pre-empted a part of section 8, Union Township, and there constructed a dugout in the side of the hill, and there he managed to live two years or more. He moved to his place in section 21 in the spring of 1877. His brother, Edward Johnson, located in the county in the spring of 1859, first locating on Maple Creek. About 1866 he homesteaded eighty acres in Union Township where he was living in the '90s.

Part of section 18, this township, was settled by the parents of John M. Dickerson in the autumn of 1860. As soon as the homestead law went into force David Dickerson, the father, took his homestead.

Charles Thrush came to the county in March, 1861, and became a permanent settler in Union Township.

David Scott, section 23, located in Dodge County in the autumn of 1863.

Josiah Dickerson took a homestead in 1865, the same being in section 34.

James and William McVicker arrived in the spring of 1867, locating in sections 30 and 20 respectively.

In the fall of 1866 Hiram Burger effected his settlement, rented until the summer of 1867, then homesteaded in section 28.

Andrew Quigley came to Dodge County in 1869, rented land and finally settled permanently in section 18, Union Township.

Mathias Ruff and John Kern arrived in the spring of 1869. Ruff took a homestead in section 26.

William R. Black, section 18, came to Dodge County in July, 1874; Thomas Gaughen, section 15, came in 1875, and Daniel A. Boggs, March, 1877.

Later settlements were made by: Martin Gaughen, section 9; William L. Hatcher, 1880; Joseph Krause, section 28, in the fall of 1881; George J. Campbell, manager of the Bay State Stock Farm, arrived in the county in 1882; C. M. Black, section 16, spring of 1884.

Dennis Killeen came here in the spring of 1877; was a native of Ireland and arrived in America in 1868. His son became county clerk of Dodge County.

Another settler who should not be left from the record was James Sloss and family, who located in Union Township in October, 1858, locating in section 12.

Eighteen hundred fifty-nine saw the following immigrants locate in the township: David Dickerson and family, of New Jersey, and John B. Waterman, of New York. Waterman remained until 1864 then removed to California.

It should be here stated that during the eventful years of 1869-70, the greater portion of the land within this township was taken up by actual settlers, who flocked from all parts of the globe.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The reader is referred to the special chapter on such subjects for these are treated in general with all other schools and churches in the county. (See index.)

The Protestants and Catholics both have a cemetery within Union Township.

GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Purple Cane postoffice in section 18, of Union Township, existed from 1885 to 1892.

The Bay State Live Stock Company had a very extensive ranch in the southeastern part of the township. There immense numbers of cattle and horses were raised and fed annually. The ranch included all of section 11, upon which the Bay State station of the Union Pacific Railroad was located. There large barns and yards for stock and extensive corn and grain warehouses were erected.

From this point a branch railroad was projected, and known as the "North Bend and Elkhorn Valley" Railroad. For reasons best known to railway men, this line was never constructed.

CHAPTER XXXIV

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

DESCRIPTION—POPULATION—ORGANIZATION—SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES —POSTOFFICES—GENERAL CONDITION TODAY—LIST OF EARLY SET- TLERS.

Pleasant Valley Township is situated on the west line of Dodge County, second from the north line, and hence comprises Congressional township 19, range 5, east. It is bounded on the north by Webster Township, on the east by Ridgeley Township, on the south by Union and on the west by Colfax County. This is another of the civil subdivisions of Dodge County in which there are no towns or villages, neither a railroad. The Federal census in 1890 gave the population as 815, but a state census of schools gave it 1,000 in 1892. In 1900 it had dropped down to 734 and in 1910, the same authority gave its population as only 646. The figures on the present (1920) census have not yet been given out.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIP

Up to 1886 this township was included in Webster precinct, but at the time this precinct system of the county was changed to township government, it was changed to conform to its present territory and its domain has since been known as "Pleasant Valley Township."

PIONEER SETTLEMENT

A single man named James Ferguson is supposed to have been the first person to permanently locate within this township. He claimed land in section 24 in the autumn of 1868.

In the early spring of 1869 came John Ross, locating in section 22. He homesteaded a quarter section and became a permanent figure in Dodge County. He had served in the army and navy of the United States from 1861 to 1865.

John L. Brown came here in June, 1869, and pre-empted a quarter section of land in section 10. He also took a homestead of eighty acres in the same section.

John Emanuel, of section 28, this township, was postmaster and store-keeper at Pleasant Valley, was numbered among the pioneers of this township. He came in during 1869, taking a homestead.

Among those who came to this township from other parts of Dodge County may be recalled: Eben Ives, who first located in section 32, Ridgeley Township, but later moved over to section 36, Pleasant Valley. Also James Robertson, who came with his family and located in section 14 in March of that year, but later moved to section 26.

Joseph Cross came to Fremont in the early autumn of 1870. In the spring of 1871 he rented in Union Township. In 1872 he homesteaded in section 28, where he died in August, 1891.

Henry Rose came to the county in 1870 and made his settlement in Pleasant Valley Township in 1871. John Andrews took his homestead of a quarter section in section 8, in the fall of 1870. He had been a soldier

in the Civil war and therefore entitled to a quarter of a section in his homestead.

Besides those already named as being settlers in Pleasant Valley Township in 1870, were also these: James Harvie, whose parents settled in section 14; Henry Sturbaum, section 2; John Arps, section 32; in 1871 came Hans P. Stoltenberg, located a homestead which had been claimed by another, in section 28, but he paid the former claimant \$100 and thus secured what soon came to be a valuable place.

In 1873 Peter Emanuel located in this township, purchasing railroad land. Edwin Hook also located in section 6 that year.

Frederick Zadehoff, of section 31, came to Dodge County in 1874 and bought 200 acres of land.

Hon. Charles Feichtinger, section 22, came to Dodge County in 1868. He was a native of Germany where he mastered the jewelry trade. He came direct from the fatherland to Dodge County, Nebraska.

Jacob Longacre came in the spring of 1873.

John Haase, section 29, dated his settlement from the spring of 1880.

Frederick Haase settled in section 19, in 1883.

In 1869 when John Ross came to this township he found residing here: William, John and James Ferguson, who belonged to a Scotch colony on the eastern line of the township. They all came in 1869; John Johnson, who took a homestead, came that year, and later moved to North Bend.

William Ross came in 1870 and took his homestead, remained until 1884, when he sold and went back to New York State. He sold to John Hair. John Ross came in 1877, purchased railroad land in section 27, remained in the township until 1889, then moved to Box Butte County.

Hon. John R. Cantlin, section 26, came in as a homesteader in 1870.

Quite a goodly number of Germans located in the northeast part of the township in 1870; these included the family of Martin Heckenroder, in section 12.

Charles Warnsdorf claimed a part of section 22. J. W. Porter bought him out in 1881, and he returned to Germany. He was an odd character, but highly educated. He had been wealthy before coming to this country, but had spent most of his fortune before settling here. He took a homestead and lived a single man, doing his own cooking.

Other early settlers were Thomas M. Stubbart and Hugh Robertson.

It may be stated that many of the first settlers in this part of Dodge County were young single men, who took land, made rude houses from sod and other cheap material, and then sent for their intended wives, their marriage taking place after they had arrived from some of the older settled places in the East, and in many cases from across the great Atlantic Ocean. It took stout hearts and strong bodies to thus leave home and firesides where they had been reared and attempt to make a home in a wild, prairie land like Nebraska was at that date. These women made the best wives and mothers and have certainly accomplished their share of developing this township and county.

The first marriage in this township was that of James Ferguson. This marriage was dated sometime in 1869.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The first school was held in a sod shanty—see special chapter in this volume on Educational interests.

Reverend Wilson, of North Bend, held the first religious meeting—see chapter on various churches of the county.

POSTOFFICES AND CEMETERIES

Prior to 1890 there were two cemeteries laid out in this township—one in section 28, and one in section—"Pleasant Valley" and "Glencoe." It is likely that the first death in the township was that of the mother of John L. Brown.

The first birth recorded was that of Bessie Ferguson, May 22, 1869, the daughter of John and Jane Ferguson.

Pleasant Valley postoffice was established in 1871, with Matthew Stubbert first postmaster, section 34. Other postmasters were: Messrs. Huffland, Hans P. Stoltenberg, section 28, who was followed by John Emanuel. The postmaster then conducted a general store.

GENERAL HISTORIC ITEMS

During 1873-4 and '75 the grasshoppers ruined the fair prospects of scores of farmers in Pleasant Valley. Excellent "eighties" of land could have been purchased for \$100, but most of them held on because they found no one to buy them out, and their sons and daughters can now sell the same acres at not less than \$300 an acre. Twenty-five years ago these lands sold at \$40.

A town hall was built for public meetings and election purposes in the northeast quarter of section 21, in 1891, costing \$200.

A Grange or Farmers' Alliance hall was also erected in section 24.

A German Farmers' Club hall was erected in the '80s in the western portion of this township. This cost \$500. It was a six-sided building and built by a stock company.

CHAPTER XXXV

LOGAN TOWNSHIP

ITS EXTENT — BOUNDARIES — POPULATION — RAILROAD FACILITIES — SWEDISH COLONY — LATER SETTLEMENT — VILLAGE OF UEHLING — GENERAL CONDITIONS TODAY — ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIP OR PRECINCT AS THEN KNOWN — FIRST TOWNSHIP ELECTION — SWA-BURGH POSTOFFICE.

Logan Township is in the extreme northeastern corner of Dodge County. It comprises all of the Congressional township 20, range 8, east. Until a few years ago it was without railroad facilities and purely an agricultural section, but in recent years transportation facilities have been furnished by the building of a branch line of the great "Burlington" system, with a station near the northern line of the township and county — Uehling. Logan Township is bounded on the north by Burt County, on the east by Washington County, on the south by Hooper Township, Dodge County, on the west by Cuming Township, making a six-mile square tract of land.

POPULATION AND ORGANIZATION

The township was organized as a precinct in 1857. The first election was held at the house of C. H. Lisers; the judges were Hiram H. Ladd, Willis Carr and Martin Shearer. The population in 1890 was, according to the United States census, 673, in 1900 it was only 621, and in 1910 had increased to 857. The 1920 enumeration figures have not yet been given out.

SETTLEMENT NOTES

A colony from the north of Sweden, just at the close of the Civil war in this country, made the pioneer settlement in Logan Township, aside from a few who preceded them. This Swedish colony was headed by Peter Saspair, of section 15. Many remained and took homesteads, while some went to Omaha for settlement. Among those who may be termed "first settlers" were: Andrew Larson, O. Larson, Lars Lund, M. M. Frost, Peter Dahl, Andrew Linn, M. Olson, P. A. Anderson, Nels Hanson, Oscar Bergquist, Carl Morrell, Christian Dueholm and N. P. Westlin.

Theodore Uehling came to this county in 1860, settling in section 18, township 19, range 9, and there built him a log house and covered it with slough grass. He bought and traded for many tracts of land until he owned 1,000 acres.

In 1865 Andrew Bowman and his mother came. They homesteaded eighty acres in section 10 and built a log cabin which was burned, and later they were driven from the premises by high water, but they were not the type of people to easily give up, and after a few years of great privation and hardship they became well circumstanced.

In 1867 George Briggs, later of section 34, located in this township. He purchased a quarter section of wild land and made his own improvements as best he could.

In 1868 the township had other settlers in the persons of John Sampson, section 26. He stopped in Fremont one year and then took his homestead. Peter Swanson, Peter Anderson, T. H. Mallett and others came about the same time or a little later.

Hon. N. P. Nelson settled here in 1869. His mother took a homestead in the fall of that year, in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34.

Ole Johnson was another settler of the last named year and he claimed a part of section 34. He also bought railroad lands in section 35.

Fred Daubert settled in section 7 in 1872.

Gus J. Bergquist bought eighty acres of wild land in section 24 in 1875.

Other settlers included Gus Swanson, John Daubert, J. G. Myer and Howard Myer.

Of the churches and public schools the reader is referred to special chapters in this volume on such topics covering the entire county.

EARLY POSTOFFICE

Swaburgh postoffice was established in 1881 in section 14, but in 1888 it was moved to section 24. E. Morrell was postmaster in the '90s. Mail was then being received at that date three times a week on a route from Hooper to Herman station.

Vast indeed has been the transformation in this portion of the goodly "Kingdom of Dodge" since those days away back in the '60s. One now sees in traveling through the country, a splendid agricultural section, well developed, with handsome farm houses and barns, and the passer-by is greeted by the smiling faces of a contented and prosperous people.

THE VILLAGE OF UEHLING

This village is a station on the "Burlington" Railroad situated near the north county line.

It was platted in a great cornfield and construction of the "Burlington" road was carried forward in 1905 and the track laid to Uehling February 17, 1906. The first building in the place was erected by Mr. Uehling on the corner where now stands the Farmers State Bank Building.

Uehling now has a population of about 400. It was incorporated as a village November 20, 1906. The following have served as village chairmen of the board: 1906—Henry Piefer; 1907—L. A. Green; he served until 1911 and was followed by H. R. Suhr, who served till 1914, when Andrew Frost was elected chairman and held the position until 1919, when the present chairman, M. Peterson, was elected.

The various village clerks have been in order as follows: H. F. Meyer, V. P. Hart, L. A. Larson, H. F. Meyer, 1912-18, A. J. W. Koehler, 1918-20.

A fine system of waterworks was installed in 1909. The cost was \$10,000. The source of water supply is three deep wells from which water is forced to a steel tower and tank 120 feet high. Electric lights were installed in 1914. The village has a two-story brick and frame town hall in which the fire department and village officers are housed.

POSTOFFICE, HOSPITAL, ETC.

The first postmaster was F. J. Uehling, who served from February to July, 1906, then it passed into the hands of R. S. Honey, who held it till October, 1917, then H. Christensen held from October, 1917, to October, 1919; the next postmaster was Mrs. R. S. Honey, who still serves. It is a fourth-class postoffice.

Doctor McKnight, a newcomer to the village, established a hospital in the season of 1920 and is doing nicely at this date.

One of the finest baseball parks within Nebraska is to be seen at Uehling, on the banks of the Elkhorn River.

The village supports a Congregational Church and a Lutheran Church.

A Modern Woodmen of America and a Woodman of the World lodge are found here—see Lodge Chapter.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—1920

Banking—Farmers State Bank and the Logan Valley Bank.

Doctors—Doctor McKnight.

Auto Garage—Barton Strand, H. N. De Molin.

Blacksmiths—Oliver A. Larson.

Barber Shop—Marshall Bennett.

Cream Station—Russell Anderson.

Drugs—The Hansen Drug Company.

Elevators—Farmers' Co-operative Association and the Holmquist Company.

Furniture (with Hardware)—Fred J. Uehling and L. W. Larson.

General Dealers—Fred H. Steckelberg, W. A. Stach, Christemen & Rinderhogen.

Harness—W. H. Miller.

Hotel—Mrs. Chris Nelson.

Ice—C. J. Shaw.

Lumber—Farmers' Co-operative Association, Bowman, Kratz Lumber Company.

Meat Market—C. J. Shaw.

Newspaper—The Uehling Post. See "Press Chapter."

Opera Halls—The Uehling Hall, Larson Hall and Lodge Hall.

Restaurant—Otto A. Graves.

Farm Implements—Larson Brothers.

CHAPTER XXXVI

MAPLE TOWNSHIP

DESCRIPTION—BOUNDARY—OLD PRECINCT OF MAPLE—CENSUS RETURNS —SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—POSTOFFICES—SETTLEMENT.

Maple civil township comprises Congressional township 18, range 7, east, hence is six miles square and it is bounded on the north by Everett Township, on the east by Nickerson, on the south by Platt Township and on the west by Cotterell Township. Originally Maple Township as now constituted formed a part of Everett and Nickerson townships or precincts as then known, but in 1886, when "Township Organization" came into effect, the present limits were fixed. This is one of Dodge County's inland townships and has neither railway line nor village within its borders.

POPULATION

In 1890 the United States census gave this township a population of 778; in 1900 it was placed at 1,409, but in 1910 it was decreased to 606. Its population is about equally divided between American and foreign born.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The reader is referred to the special chapters in this work on the schools, churches and lodges of the whole county for facts concerning such subjects in this township.

POSTOFFICES

Maple Creek postoffice was established in this township in 1870, on a mail route from Fremont to West Point. This postoffice in 1892 was being kept in section 3.

Jamestown postoffice was located in section 20, and Bangs postoffice in section 15.

The pioneer postmaster was Father Monroe, who kept the Maple Creek office at his home in section 4. The advent of the free rural delivery postal system has greatly changed the mail facilities in this township and daily mails come from various postoffices right to the very dooryard of the farmer.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

Maple Township was first settled by Seneca Hager, in section 20. He came from Platte Township, where his parents had settled in 1856.

Rev. Jacob Adriance, section 20, came to Dodge County in 1858, first locating at Fremont as a Methodist Episcopal minister. In that work he continued many years. In 1862 he located land with a land warrant, and in 1879 moved to the premises to remain. His settlement and labors were indeed full of interesting incidents and pioneer experiences.

George Knoell of section 26 came to this county in the spring of 1859, locating at first in Platte Township with his father, he himself being only sixteen years old at the time of his father's settlement.

Charles A. Bang, of section 14, came in very early. He came from Denmark, worked about three years and returned to his native land. After a visit in Denmark he returned to this county and was employed in a mill at North Bend until 1869, when he purchased and improved eighty acres of land, to which he added until he owned a half section.

Ole Hanson settled in section 26; in 1866 he went to work at Fremont and about three years later, 1869, he homesteaded land, where he resided many years.

Rasmus Hansen, section 35, came to Dodge County in the autumn of 1867 and engaged at sawmill work near Fremont. Eighteen months later he rented land upon which he lived two years. He then took a homestead, lived thereon five years, sold and purchased 120 acres nearer Fremont. He sold again and moved to Oregon, but six years later returned and finally settled on land in section 35.

James C. Nelson of section 22, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1867, first stopping in Fremont. At the time he was a young single man, and he hired out by the month as a farm hand. He soon claimed eighty acres of wild land as his own and there made a good home.

Eighteen hundred and sixty-seven saw another truly representative settler in the person of Lewis A. Warner in section 3, who came to Dodge County in the fall of that year. For three years he rented land near Nickerson, after which he moved to the Maple Creek county and there engaged in farming and stock-raising.

J. E. Dorsey settled in Maple Township on Maple Creek, section 1, in 1867; later he moved to North Bend.

L. M. Keene came from Maine in Company with Chester Morse in 1867 and located in section 12, Maple Township. Later he moved to Fremont, where he soon became one of the successful financiers of the city.

Chester Morse located in section 4. Not many years later, however, he moved to North Bend, and later in company with others, platted the Village of Morse Bluff, south of the Platte River from North Bend.

"Old Mr. Monroe" settled in section 3 at about the last named date—1867—and remained there until overtaken by death.

Thomas and W. F. Wilson came in from Ohio and located on the north line of the township. In 1869 came Melcher Endley, locating in section 10, a part of which he homesteaded and another portion he bought. After proving up he sold and returned to Ohio.

Another homesteader of 1869 was James Hiscock, who in 1887 sold to J. A. Sill and removed to Colfax County, Nebraska.

James L. Davis came in 1869, took an eighty-acre tract as his homestead right, and lived on the same until 1887, then moved to Fremont, where after a few years he died.

In 1870 came Seth Harkness to section 13. He bought railroad land and resided in this township until 1880, when he sold and moved to Hamilton County, Nebraska.

G. W. R. Pettibone became a resident of section 2 in 1870. He bought out a homesteader and lived in the township until 1876, when he moved to Fremont and there embarked in business. Subsequently, he went to Deadwood, South Dakota, and there traded for a time but returned to Fremont and later settled in the City of Lincoln, where he became general agent for a Des Moines insurance company, and in 1892 was reported to have made \$200,000 at the insurance business.

Among the settlers in the "seventies" was John L. Ritter of section 4. Later he engaged in the grain trade at Hooper; also at North Bend, and finally became a member of the Town Site Company of Morse & Ritter, platting Morse Bluff.

Other pioneer settlers were—C. E. Forbes, section 14; William Springer, 1870; W. C. Aiken, section 10; Casper Eidam, a farmer of section 16, came to the county in 1870 and located in Platte Township, where he rented land for a time before purchasing.

David Brown, section 4, came in the spring of 1870, then rented land on Maple Creek four years, then bought eighty acres of his own.

William C. Wallingford located in section 34 in 1870. He rented land near Fremont five seasons, after which he bought in section 7, Platte Township, farmed there ten years, then went to section 34.

Peter Johnson, another 1870 immigrant to Dodge County, followed railroad work two years. He then went to breaking prairie and a year later purchased eighty acres of land in section 15.

In 1872 Edward Hooker located at Fremont, near which city he rented land a year or more, then homesteaded part of section 5, this township.

Edward Rannie, section 15, came to the county in May, 1872. He took up a quarter section of unimproved land.

Hon. Julius A. Sill, section 11, came to this county in the early spring of 1872. In 1892 he owned 400 acres of valuable Dodge County land.

Frank F. and Hugh C. Brown, Christian Hansen, Hans Hansen, John G. Dykeman, Henry Rebbe, B. C. Allen, Ezra Phillips, James L. Brown, Peter Slack, William Phillips, Eugene M. Tarbell, Theodore R. Stout and Philip Sullivan all came to this township at an early time and helped to subdue the tough prairie sod and transform the wild prairie into the present beautiful and high-priced farming lands one now sees throughout this and adjoining townships in Dodge County. They "builded better than they knew."

CHAPTER XXXVII

NORTH BEND TOWNSHIP

FORMERLY NORTH BEND PRECINCT—ITS INTERESTING HISTORY—FIRST COLONY—FIRST ELECTION—CITY OF NORTH BEND—PIONEER HISTORY—EARLY EVENTS—COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF NORTH BEND—BUSINESS INTERESTS IN 1920—POSTOFFICE HISTORY—MUNICIPAL HISTORY—MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS—PARKS, ETC.

What is now styled North Bend civil township was within Cotterell Township before township organization took place in Dodge County in 1886. North Bend Precinct, as once known, is not without its interesting local history, and the same is covered by the village history in this chapter. It was here that the first little colony of pioneer emigrants from Ohio settled in 1856. The first election after Dodge County was organized was held in North Bend the first Monday in February, 1860, at which time Fremont was made the county seat.

North Bend Township is now confined to the corporate limits of the village of the same name—see its history.

CITY OF NORTH BEND

This is a thriving city situated fifteen miles to the west of the City of Fremont, on the north bank of Platte River, in township 17, range 6, east. It now has a population of about 1,200, according to the latest United States census. It was platted October 12, 1867, by S. S. Caldwell, M. S. Cotterell and the officers of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The population in 1876 was 250 souls and in 1890 it was placed at 897. It is within one of the richest agricultural sections of the state, where land is now worth from \$250 to \$400 per acre. The main line of the Union Pacific Railway runs through North Bend, which place is fifty miles from Omaha, the terminus of that great rail route from the Missouri River to the far-away Pacific coast. The altitude of North Bend is 1,275 feet.

PIONEER HISTORY

The first twenty years' history of North Bend was well described "Centennial Year" (1876) by J. Mason Smith, who responded to the general call made by President U. S. Grant that every township in the country make an effort to preserve its history on that occasion. This historical sketch was read before those who assembled on July 4th that year, and the same (by permission) is here inserted, and it is believed that no better account of the place between 1856 and 1876 can be given than Mr. Smith's graphic account of its first settlement, which runs thus:

The Town of North Bend takes its name from the bend in the Platte River on which it is located. Long before the settlement was made this point was a favorite camping ground for emigrants going to California, Utah and other points west. Here was an abundance of grass and water for their weary cattle; here was wood and water by which the hungry

traveler could cook his victuals and refresh the inner man; here in the Platte's swift running waters they bathed their weary limbs and started anew on their journey, refreshed and invigorated.

Nebraska Territory was not long organized when some of its leading men saw that at North Bend was a good point to locate a town.

Governor Izard, Secretary Cummings, John I. Redick, Judge Mathews, Squire Hallock and others—sixteen in all—formed themselves into a company known as "The North Bend Town Company." About the first of April, 1856, Mathews and Hallock came and located a town for this company. About the first of July, 1857, the town was surveyed and laid out by Charles Turner, United States deputy surveyor.

God made the country—man made North Bend a "Paper Town." Most of the towns in the territory at that time were paper towns. Speculations ran very high and a number of land sharks made what they called



HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH BEND

a good thing out of it. They sold lots from \$50 to \$100 each to parties who never saw the lots and it may be reasonably supposed never will.

The first settlement in the vicinity was made on July 4, 1856, by a few Scotch families who had for a few years previous been living in Illinois. The party consisted of Robert Miller, his wife and four children; John Miller and wife; William and Alexander Miller, brothers of Robert and John, and Miss Eliza Miller, now the wife of W. H. Ely of Fremont.

This little party had the night previous camped about four miles east of North Bend; finding no wood to cook their supper with they each drank some milk and went to bed. They arose early the following morning—July 4th, yoked up their oxen and arrived at North Bend about 9 o'clock A. M., where they found plenty of wood and water to cook their breakfast with. They liked the appearance of the country, but thought they would go further on and prospect. They got ready and started; after going a few miles they came to the conclusion that they would turn back and settle at North Bend, which they did. As soon as possible they put up shanties to live in, which were made of willows and hay. That fall two log houses were erected and were located on section 12, near the present farm of James Sloss.

In August that year the little colony was increased by the arrival of George Turton, who was strong and robust and a good practical surveyor. He was a host in himself and the right man in the right place; his experience as a surveyor was of much benefit to the little colony.

Early in the fall the town company put up what was called the "Town House." The contract was let to George J. Turton and William Miller. Its dimensions were 16 by 40 feet. It was built of cottonwood logs and stood a few rods west of what is now called (1876) the Old Bend House. It was fearfully and wonderfully made—a kind of cross between Noah's Ark and the house that Jack built. In 1866, it being too near the railroad, it was taken down and moved away. Part of the logs are now (1876) used, as they are rebuilt in a stable. (Many of the first events of the settlement were told in this history, read July 4, 1876, which have been cut out and added to the history of the surrounding townships.)

June 29, 1857, an important addition was made to the settlement by the arrival of Alex Morrison, J. Humphries and J. M. Smith.

M. S. Cotterell, Jr., belonged to this party but did not arrive until July 12th. This party was from Cleveland, Ohio, and brought a steam sawmill with them as far as Omaha; they were looking up a site for their mill. They were pleased with the country and concluded to locate the mill here, which they did. They had left their wives behind, but August 2d Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. James Humphries with her five children arrived. In the anticipation of their coming, the Town House had been chinked and shingled, but the women were much disappointed with the looks in general, still with stout hearts they accepted the situation and went to work earnestly and energetically, cheered by the hope that by and by they would get their reward for all their toils and privations.

Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Humphries brought chickens with them from Cleveland, these being the first chickens in the town and settlement. Now, with the prattle of children, the cackling of hens and a crowing rooster, things commenced to wear a little aspect of civilization. John Sloss arrived in September; he soon went to work for the sawmill company. He located on section 11, four miles east of North Bend, Cotterell Township. He later married a Miss Kelley. Robert Graham and wife and James H. Graham from Cleveland arrived late in 1857 and located in what was later Union Township.

On the first of January, 1858, the number of persons in the settlement was twenty-eight. Of this number fifteen were children under twelve years of age.

In the spring of 1858, as the town company had not complied with the law, failing to make the improvement the law required, it left them without a legal claim to the property, therefore the townsite was jumped by M. F. Cotterell and J. M. Smith. The company did not make much fuss, it may be supposed they had realized about all they saw any chance of doing, therefore let go without showing much fight!

When the colony first located here their nearest postoffice was Omaha, fifty miles away, which was very inconvenient for those who had left their wives behind them. It is related that M. F. Cotterell is one who whistled "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and footed it to Omaha for mail that was not there, returning the next day. It was a long ways back to North Bend. On December 31, 1858, the number of persons in the vicinity was thirty-seven, twelve of these being under twelve years of age.

The above paragraphs bring the settlement of North Bend down to what its citizens today are pleased to call "modern times." Before going

into the details of business interests in this enterprising little city, some of the early events of interest will be narrated.

EARLY EVENTS

The first election was held on the second Tuesday of November, 1856, when the County of Dodge was in three precincts. Robert Kittle and George Young were elected justices of the peace and George Turton was elected county commissioner.

The first marriage within the place was John B. Waterman to Elizabeth R. Graham, July 28, 1859. This refers to the "settlement" and the first marriage in the Village of North Bend was not until 1860, when George Bathrick and Miss Nancy Rhodes were united in marriage by Rev. I. A. Wilson, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church.

The first male child born in this vicinity was Seth W. Young, November, 1856; he was also the first in Dodge County. Roderick C. Smith, son of J. Mason Smith, was born December 21, 1858.

The first family to set up housekeeping in the Village of North Bend was that of George J. Turton, May, 1857. He came to the county the year before, a single man, but in March, 1857, went east and returned with his bride.

The first sawmill of Dodge County was placed in running order in this vicinity and was operated until the fall of 1860, when it was burned by a prairie fire. This mill was brought from Cleveland, Ohio, in July, 1857, by Messrs. Cotterell, Smith, Morrison and Humphries. Indeed, this was the pioneer sawmill in all the far-reaching Platte Valley. It proved a financial failure to its various owners, but was of much value to the settlers. Persons came from Fremont and obtained small loads of lumber, cut from cottonwood logs sawed by this mill. This lumber took the place of the former hay roofs in use; also furnished their shanties with solid floors. A small iron grain-grinding mill was later attached to this sawmill and corn was ground constantly until the burning of the mill.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF NORTH BEND

The Union Pacific Railroad made its appearance at North Bend in the spring of 1866, and that marked a second era in the settlement of that part of the county. There was only one house on the site of the place when the iron horse first entered that green, glad solitude, that being one owned by M. S. Cotterell, Jr. George Canfield opened a small grocery store in July of that year, the first goods being sold on Independence Day.

The earliest hotel was built by Williams & Perkins in 1867. In 1872 it was moved to the tracks and converted into a grain warehouse by Dowling & Purcell.

From 1866 to 1876 there were shipped 19,000,000 pounds of grain from the North Bend depot. The first wheat shipped to Omaha was by John Burger. The freight rate was \$18 per car. The first livestock was shipped by Robert Hall.

The first real, up-to-date grocers were T. B. Purcell and M. Dowling, at first in the Canfield Building, but built for themselves on Sycamore Street. For many years these men were heavily engaged in the grain trade at North Bend.

The first exclusive grain dealer was N. Merriam, who shipped the first car of wheat to Chicago in August, 1874. Down to that time the

home-grown grain was usually all consumed by the flouring mills located at Fremont. This dealer paid Fremont prices at his warehouse at North Bend, which caused his business to be very extensive. He was always noted for his correct weights and honorable dealings.

In passing it should be stated that the first fat cattle were shipped from North Bend by rail on June 22, 1876.

A lumber yard was started in North Bend in the autumn of 1875 by J. B. Foote.

The pioneer "Village Blacksmith" was Robert Graham, who came in the spring of 1867, but soon sold his forge to Jerry Dion.

Smith Brothers in 1867 built what was styled the "Corner Store."

The first man to practice medicine at and around North Bend was Doctor Bell, a North Carolinian, who arrived here in 1868. He finally met with an accident by which he lost both his feet. He was caught out on a professional visit and had his feet frozen. Doctors Abbott of Fremont and Moore of Omaha amputated his feet.

For an account of the schools, churches and lodges the reader is referred to special chapters on such topics elsewhere in this work.

The various newspapers and banks are likewise treated in chapters on such subjects for the entire county.

A good nursery was established by J. W. Stevenson in 1882. From this nursery he shipped transplanted stock to many western states and territories. The nursery joined the town plat and a large annual business was transacted. This being the only nursery in this part of Nebraska, his shipments were made many miles.

Many persons have been engaged in business in North Bend for a greater or less period of time with the passing years—some are still residents of the place, but most all have left for other fields or departed this life. At this time (summer of 1920) the historian finds the commercial and professional interests to be in the hands of the following persons:

BUSINESS INTERESTS—1920

Attorney—J. J. Gleeson.

Auto Garages—W. H. Westthal, U. S. Tym, W. H. Snyder, City Garage and Ford Garage.

Banks—The First National and First State Bank.

Barbers—Al Hammond, N. L. Thorp, P. J. Laughlin.

Bakery—H. A. Miller, Frank Kenney.

Blacksmithing—G. A. Millar, Anderson Brothers, C. J. Lehmer.

Community Club—J. J. Gleeson, secretary.

Cream Station—Lincoln Butter Co.

Cement Tile Works—A home concern.

Drugs—J. R. Tapster, W. A. La Violette.

Dentists—Drs. J. H. Stebbins, T. F. Frederick.

Elevators—Farmers' Co-operative Association, C. A. Millar Grain Company.

Electric Supplies—All hardware dealers.

Furniture—P. F. Carey, who also does undertaking.

Farmers' Telephone Company, F. A. Howe, president.

General Merchandise—Houserfield Mercantile Company, and Fred Young, also the "Baskett Store No. 46."

Hotel—The Hackney House, by C. O. Wagner.

Harness Shop—Adolph Kemper.

Hay Dealer—W. N. Pruyn.

Hardware—Griffin & Co., T. J. Gaughen, V. W. Jansen.
Implements—(See list of lumbermen.)
Ice Dealer—Earl Street.
Jeweler—J. T. Ostry.
Lumber—Cherny & Watson, Farmers Union Company.
Milling—North Bend Milling Company.
Meat Markets—William Buchta, John Buchta.
Millinery—Mrs. Roy Clay.
Newspaper—The North Bend Eagle.
Nursery—The “North Bend Nursery.”
Picture Show—The Lyric, by Fred Mehaffey.
Public Library—“The Carnegie.”
Photographer—G. C. Armstead.
Physicians—Doctors Hamod, A. E. Hoff, W. E. Doane, S. W. Yates.
Restaurant—Kenney Bakery and one more (proprietor's name unknown).
Tailors—R. S. Palmer.
Veterinary Surgeons—Drs. O. O. Wallace, James Thom.
Variety Store—V. W. Vauter.

POSTOFFICE HISTORY

The North Bend postoffice was established early in the spring of 1858, with G. J. Turton as the first postmaster. July 4th that year the first mail arrived over the tri-weekly stage line operated by the North-western Stage Company between Omaha and Fort Kearney, with a station point at North Bend. The first stagekeeper here was Alexander Morrison. A daily stage line was had in the spring of 1859, when the famous Pike's Peak gold mining excitement set in. Before the postoffice was established at North Bend the few settlers there had to depend on trips by someone to Omaha for their mail facilities.

A money order office has been maintained here since July, 1879, and the first order ever issued from the West Bend postoffice was in favor of George W. Gray for the sum of \$5.50 to be paid at Omaha. O. A. Hough was then the postmaster. Up to 1892 more than 11,000 money orders had been issued from this office. Since then the record is not accessible. For a number of years what was known as the “Postal Note” was also issued from postoffices as well as regular money orders.

The postmasters from the establishment of the office to 1892 were: George J. Turton, Charles Dickinson, Thomas Jones, M. Dowling, J. A. Hough, C. W. Hyatt, H. Williams and J. P. Yost. Since the last named the list of postmasters has included these: A. L. Norris succeeded Yost, served one year under President Cleveland's administration. Next was C. A. Long from May 17, 1897, served nine years and one month; John Cusack then served eight years, ending April 25, 1914, since which time the present postmaster, J. E. Newsom, has been postmaster. This is a third-class postoffice and the last year's business amounted to \$5,800. Three rural free delivery routes go out from this postoffice.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY

North Bend has been twice incorporated into a municipality—first, April 20, 1876, as a village and again in 1886 as a “city.” The original village officers were as follows: James H. Hough, M. Dowling, Peter Gillis, C. C. Kendal and A. L. Norris, as trustees; C. W. Hyatt, clerk;

Thomas B. Purcell, treasurer; Jerry Dion, assessor; Duncon Smith, marshal.

The following shows who served on the village board up to the time of reincorporating into a "city":

1877—Trustees: J. H. Hough (chairman), Merriam Dowling, A. Foote, D. M. Strong; clerk, Thomas Love.

1878—Trustees: Milton May (chairman), J. H. Hough, Peter Gillis, C. Cusack, B. P. Rice; clerk, Thomas Love.

1879—Trustees: J. H. Hough (chairman), J. J. Kelsler, John Purcell, C. B. Treadwell, C. Cusack; clerk, N. M. Vedder.

1880—Trustees: J. H. Hough (chairman), Peter Gillis, C. Cusack, John Keith, Frank Stouffer; clerk, H. B. Millard.

1881—Trustees: A. J. Kenyon (chairman), F. F. Doubrava, A. Crawford, T. F. Keeton, D. M. Strong; clerk, R. Spence.

1882—Trustees: James Sloss (chairman), Frank Stouffer, Peter Gillis, A. K. Walla, T. F. Keeton; clerk, T. F. Keeton.

1883—Trustees and clerk same as for 1882.

1884—Trustees: Q. B. Skinner (chairman), A. Crawford, D. A. Hopkins, M. Dowling, A. K. Walla; clerk, C. B. Treadwell.

1885—Trustees: Q. B. Skinner (chairman), A. K. Walla, J. Purcell, J. B. Foote, H. Williams; clerk, C. B. Treadwell.

1886—During this year the place was incorporated into a "city" since which time the mayors have been as follows:

1886—Q. B. Skinner. 1887—Q. B. Skinner. 1888—D. M. Strong.

1889—A. L. Norris. 1890—A. L. Norris. 1891—Same as for 1890.

1892—M. Dowling.

1892—M. Dowling, mayor; J. E. Newsom, clerk.

1893—T. J. Catterell, mayor; C. K. Watson, clerk.

1894—Spencer Day, mayor; C. K. Watson, clerk.

1895—C. W. Dodge, mayor; C. A. Long, clerk.

1896—Hugh Robinson, mayor; C. A. Long, clerk.

1897—Hugh Robinson, mayor; C. L. Norris, clerk.

1898—J. H. Johnson, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1899—Hugh Robinson, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1900—C. H. Wolrath, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1901—John Cherny, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1902—(No record).

1903—D. M. Dodge, mayor; Mr. Main, clerk.

1904—T. B. Percell, mayor; D. M. Dodge, clerk.

1905—T. B. Percell, mayor; D. M. Dodge, clerk.

1906—A. Harvey, mayor; D. M. Dodge, clerk.

1907—T. B. Percell, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1908—Alex Thom, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1909—T. B. Percell, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1910—L. B. McLaren, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1911—William Nichol, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1912—L. B. McLaren, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1913—L. B. McLaren, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1914—L. B. McLaren, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1915—R. C. Brownell, mayor; F. D. Howe, clerk.

1916—R. C. Brownell, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1917—R. C. Brownell, mayor; C. K. Wilson, clerk.

1918—Alex Thom, mayor; J. C. Newsom, clerk.

1919—Alex Thom, mayor; John Emerson, clerk.

1920—Alex Thom, mayor; John Emerson, clerk.

The present (1920) municipal officers are: Mayor, Alex Thom; clerk, J. A. Emerson; marshal, D. G. Lehmer; councilmen, C. M. Black, D. F. Carey, Levi Williams, Martin Rees; treasurer, Roy J. Cusack; physician, Doctor Yates.

The place has a good system of water works, is lighted by an electric plant; has good streets with paving put down the present year. These improvements have all cost much money but the taxpayers are not finding fault, knowing that these things must needs all go with the building of a modern city.

A good city building was provided North Bend in 1890—a two-story brick structure on Seventh and Maple streets, costing \$6,000.

The beginning of the fire department in North Bend was in 1880, when the hook and ladder company was formed, as a safeguard against the ravages of the fire fiend. In 1892 the place had hook and ladder and engine company as well as a hose outfit well handled by competent men. At that day the company of volunteer firemen were all well uniformed and drilled for actual, practical service as fire fighters.

Among the greatest fires in North Bend were those of 1885 and 1892. The former occurred in August, when the southeastern block of the business portion was totally destroyed, but most of the property was well insured, and was soon all rebuilt. The 1892 fire was on September 29th, at 3 o'clock in the morning. This fire destroyed the opera house, First National Bank, postoffice, Star printing office, as well as other buildings on the west side of Sycamore Street, between Sixth and Seventh.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

The first opera house in North Bend was erected in 1884—a fine, large two-story brick block costing \$4,000 and seated nearly 500 persons. It stood on the west side of Sycamore Street and was burned in the month of September, 1892.

The real flour mill industry commenced here by the construction of the roller mills in 1890, with a daily capacity of fifty barrels. The proprietors of this plant were York & Thomas, who sold to the firm of Collins & Thomas.

First Platte River bridge at North Bend was the result of county bonds issued in 1875 to the amount of \$10,000, and again another issue in 1880 of \$4,000 was voted by the Precinct of North Bend. The bridge was completed and opened to the public in March, 1881. Its total cost was \$15,300. It was built by the Union Pacific Company. Prior to this a ferryboat and later a pontoon bridge was used for passage over the Platte between Dodge and Saunders counties.

The public park of North Bend consists of two full blocks of land, and is only partly improved as yet, but will in time provide the city with a most attractive spot. Then there is a small tract used for park purposes known as the Union Pacific Park—land belonging to the railway company.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

PLATTE TOWNSHIP

BOUNDARY — ORGANIZATION — SETTLEMENT — EARLY EVENTS — FIRST BIRTH — FIRST DEATH — FIRST MARRIAGE — FIRST SCHOOL — VILLAGE OF AMES — STANDARD CATTLE COMPANY, ETC. — POPULATION — INDIANS.

Platte Township is south of Nickerson and Maple townships and north of the Platte River. It comprises fractional one-half of Congressional township 17, ranges 7 and 8, east. The seat of justice of Dodge County, City of Fremont, is situated in the southeastern part of Platte Township, but is now a civil precinct by itself.

The Union Pacific Railroad passes through Platte Township, following the general course of the Platte River.

POPULATION .

The Federal census of 1890 gave the population of this township as 741; in 1900 it was 1,358, and in the next ten-year period it decreased to 1,134. The present enumeration's figures have not as yet been made public.

ORGANIZATION

From the organization of Dodge County down to 1875, this part of the county was included in Fremont Precinct, but during that year the Board of County Commissioners created Platte Precinct. Its present bounds were defined and taken on by the adoption of the township organization plan in 1886.

INDIAN SCARE

When this county was first settled, in the early '50s, the Indians were quite numerous and somewhat troublesome. They did not attempt to kill the whites, but bothered them otherwise. It was related by John C. Flor, who settled in Platte Township in the autumn of 1856, that at one time the Indians were thought to have some grievance against their pale-faced brothers and demanded the scalp of his wife, but were finally frightened away by the whites who were present. They stubbornly demanded to look upon the pale-faced woman and agreed to smoke the pipe of peace, after which she shook hands with all and they departed.

SETTLEMENT

The first settlers in what is now known as Platte Township were also the original settlers in Dodge County, as now constituted. This distinction belongs to the McNeal and Beebe families, who emigrated from Wisconsin in 1856. May 25th of that year Mrs. Beebe (mother of the later known Hon. Henry P. Beebe) and her sons, C. C., John, Martin and Charles, together with her son-in-law, Abraham McNeal, and his family, landed in this county and located two miles west of Fremont.

A former county historical record gives the following concerning the first settlement:

John C. Flor, residing in section 14, located here in the summer of 1856. In those early days the sod house, the log house and shanty had to suffice.

Henry P. Beebe above named, came in September, 1856, to his land in section 4, range 8. He remained and became one of the leading men in Dodge County. He was the first county treasurer, the first to represent the county in the Legislature after its admission into the Union. He was also one of the county judges.

Eli Hager came to the county in the fall of 1856 and for many years resided in section 18 of Platte Township. He came to the country when only seventeen years of age with his parents. That never-to-be-forgotten winter of 1856-57, when the snow was the deepest and average temperature the lowest all over the United States of any season recorded by white men, caught this pioneer man with a blinding storm December 1, 1856. His remains were not found until spring when it was observed that the wolves had eaten most of the flesh from his bones. This left Eli Hager the head of the family and only through a great struggle was he able to succeed in keeping the family together.

Another settler in 1856 was Seth T. Marvin, who located a mile and one-half west of where Fremont now stands. Later he moved into town and was indeed one of the incorporators of the town site. Subsequently he was accidentally drowned in the river near here.

Three miles to the west of Fremont settled Charles Waldo and George Peck. They were "squatters" and only remained two years.

In 1857 John D. Dodge came to where Ames, Nebraska, was later located. He originally owned the land later owned by the Standard Cattle Company.

The same time George Dane located north of Fremont. He served as a Union soldier in time of the Civil war. His was among the strangest cases on record. He was shot in the lower part of his heart by a rebel bullet, and carried the same the remainder of his years.

John Farnsworth settled in Timberville in 1857 and platted that village. He resided here many years but finally sold and moved to Fort Scott, Kansas. Another who settled at the same point was William Payne.

Thomas Knoell, of section 5, range 8, came to the county with his parents in 1859. The family were renters for five years, then bought land. Scott Davis came the same time as the Knoell family.

Henry K. Goff located in section 11, range 8, in 1866. He purchased his farm a year after coming to the county.

Andrew J. Howard settled in section 13 in 1868; Harlow Goff, George Lombard, Frank Griswold, Edward Rohr all settled here before 1873. Charles W. Sheldon came to Platte Township in the autumn of 1881, buying a quarter section of wild land.

EARLY EVENTS

The first birth in Platte Township among white people was also the first in the county. Twin girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. Abraham McNeal July 8, 1956. The first death of a white person here was that of Stedman Hager, who perished in the fearful storm of December, 1856, his body being partly devoured by wolves. The remains were found along the bank of Platte River the following spring.



THOROUGHBRED CATTLE

(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

Marriage No. 1 in the township was that uniting John D. Dodge to Miss Dickerson.

The pioneer school was the term taught in District No. 2, in a log cabin at Timberville. While taught in a private house, it was a public school. The teacher was Miss Lottie Heaton, who later became Mrs. L. H. Rogers. This school was taught in 1860.

AMES STATION

This small railway station on the line of the Union Pacific Road was named for Oaks Ames, the great Union Pacific Railroad builder. There was a time when Ames was of much more commercial importance than it has been of later years. It is situated near the site of old Timberville, which faded away with the building of the railroad and in fact never did have much business aside from the postoffice kept by John Dodge. The chief business at Ames came from the offices and yards of the great Standard Cattle Company, located at that point. Its population is now about 100. Years ago this was the point where shippers unloaded, fed and watered stock before entering the Omaha markets. But with faster shipping facilities, this feature of stock-shipping was eliminated, hence this work was all done away with at Ames. Then the activities of the Standard Cattle Company were many years the real source of business at Ames. See an account of this cattle company below.

THE STANDARD CATTLE COMPANY

In 1886 the Standard Cattle Company bought at Ames station, almost 5,000 acres of land, and soon added enough more to make a total of 6,300 acres. The object of this company was to feed range cattle from its immense stock-ranches in Montana and Wyoming. A barn was built to fully shelter 3,000 head of cattle. The first six years of the operation of this cattle company they shipped and marketed after feeding at Ames, 37,000 head of cattle; average days fed, 201; average weight when received, 986 pounds; average when sold, 1,217 pounds. Total quantity of grain fed, 103,919,307 pounds, or 1,855,495 bushels, equal to 57 bushels per head—16 pounds a day each animal for 201 days feeding.

The farmers of Dodge County were greatly benefited by the increased price paid for corn which amounted to more than 3 cents a bushel above the regular market shipping rate.

The company engaged fifty-three men for the first six years of the company's history. This company was made up largely of Boston capitalists, and their worthy manager was R. M. Allen, of Massachusetts.

History of Washington County

INTRODUCTION

As the changes of less than three score years are contemplated, one can scarcely realize or comprehend that the wonderful results of Time's marvel-working hand are the achievements of a period so brief as to be within the memory—almost of the present generation.

Let us turn back, as it were, the leaves of Time's great book to but sixty years ago and the stranger would have gazed upon a landscape of rare beauty; selected by the Omaha, the Sioux and the Pawnee Indian tribes as their camping and hunting grounds, with that singular appreciation of the beautiful which Nature made an instinct in the savage. These vast and rolling prairies were as green then as now; the prairie flowers bloomed thickly and diffused their fragrance as bountifully. We are in the haunt of the redmen, with scarcely a trace of civilization. But what a contrast! Then all was as Nature had formed it, with its variegated hues of vegetation; in winter a dreary snow-mantled desert, in summer a perfect paradise of flowers. Now all traces of the primitive are obliterated; in place of the tall prairie grass and tangled underbrush, one beholds the rich waving fields of golden grain and an almost endless sea of ripening corn. In place of the dusky warrior's rude cabins are the substantial and frequently elegant dwellings of the thrifty farmers, and the "iron horse," swifter than the nimble deer, treads the pathway so recently the trail of the red man. Then the sickle of fire annually cut away the wild herbage and drove to its death the stag, now it is the home of the cereals and nourishes on its broad bosom thousands of tons of the staple products of the great commonwealth of Nebraska. Then the storm drove the wolf to its hiding place; now the blast drives the herd of the husbandman to a warm and comfortable quarter. Indeed, the transformation is complete.

In place of an occasional steamboat stopping on the western shore of the Missouri to "wood-up," now one sees dozens of freight and passenger trains heavily laden with valuable freight and wide-awake passengers going and coming hither and thither. What was sixty years ago styled in the common school geographies as "The Great American Desert," including, Nebraska, is now known as the Central Garden Spot of the West.

Ten years before the Civil war Washington County was a howling wilderness—no settlers to speak of; no churches or schools; no towns and cities; no railroads, all was yet one green, glad solitude. How the transformation has been wrought, the various steps by which the wilderness has been changed into habitations for civilized men, is the plain duty of the local historian to show in the following pages, with the hope that his efforts will be duly appreciated, and that the facts contained therein may be of interest, and the lessons of the past may be instructive to each and every reader.

CHAPTER I

TOPOGRAPHY, GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION

LOCATION—BOUNDARY—TOPOGRAPHY—NATURAL RESOURCES—COUNTY
ORGANIZATION—FIRST CENSUS—PRESENT RESOURCES WITHIN THE
COUNTY—PRESENT CIVIL TOWNSHIPS NAMED.

Washington County is on the eastern border line of Nebraska, is bounded on the north by Burt County, on the east by the Missouri River, with Harrison County, Iowa, at its eastern shore, Douglas County at the south and Dodge County on its west. It comprises 400 square miles or equal to 256,000 acres. Its latitude and longitude will be shown by the chapter on County Organization.

The surface of this county is of a diversified character; about one-third of its domain is composed of beautiful river and creek bottom-lands, while 10 per cent is very broken and hilly bluff-land. The remainder of the county is either upland or rolling prairie. The valley on the western side of the Missouri River runs from three to seven miles in width. Those along the famous Elkhorn are from three to six miles wide. Bell Creek flows from north to south through this county and empties into the Elkhorn, and this valley is from one to three miles wide. There are numerous other smaller streams within Washington County, including the beautiful Brown, Little Bell, Deer, Fish, Long, New York, North Papillion, South, Stewart, Turkey and Walnut creeks. Every township in the county has running water within its borders, making it a delightful region for agriculture and stock-raising. The uplands run from 50 to 150 feet above the bottoms and are usually a deep dark and very fertile loam soil. Along the creeks and rivers the soil is for the most part a dark, sandy alluvium.

Originally the prairies in this section of Nebraska were covered with a luxuriant growth of blue-joint grass, but since the development of the county the grasses common to this section are all grown in immense amounts, including alfalfa which of recent years has become the most profitable and popular grass grown in the county. Red top, timothy, blue grass and clover all flourish here well.

Timber has never been known to be very heavy within the county. Although along the streams, at an early day considerable good timber was found. The varieties included cottonwood, ash, elm, willow, soft maple, oak, hickory, and the two walnut varieties. But very early the pioneer settler out on the upland and prairies saw the wisdom in planting out artificial groves of box-elder, cottonwood and other trees. The census of 1880 shows the county had about 1,895 acres of forest trees and twenty-five miles of hedges within its borders. Sandstone and brick clay are the only minerals of any note found in Washington County. Hence it is considered almost exclusively an agricultural county—this, of course, includes grain, stock-raising, fruit, vegetables and poultry, all coming in for their share at this writing toward making up the sum total of farm wealth. The chapter on Agriculture will make clear some of the statements contained herein.

Much relative to the geological formation found in Washington County will be given in the State History section of these volumes.

ORGANIZATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa, became acting governor of the Territory of Nebraska on the death of Governor Burt, who passed from earth October 18, 1854. One of his first acts was to issue a proclamation dividing the territory into counties. Among the several counties was Washington, whose boundaries were fixed as follows: "Commencing at a point on the Missouri River one mile north of Omaha City; thence due west to the dividing line ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers; thence northwesterly twenty miles to the Elkhorn River; thence eastwardly to a point on the Missouri River two miles above Fort Calhoun; thence southerly along said river to the place of beginning."

There was only one voting place within the new county—Florence postoffice—with judges of election as follows: Anselum Arnold, Charles Howe and William Bryant.

The first census was taken under acting Governor Cuming in October, 1854, and it was the base for apportionment and one councilman and two representatives in the assembly of the territory were granted this county. James C. Mitchell was chosen councilman and Anselum Arnold and A. J. Smith members of the lower house.

The first legislature convened in Omaha January 16, 1855. On February 22, 1855, an act was passed reorganizing Washington County with boundaries as follows: "Commencing at a point on the Missouri River two miles north of Florence; thence north following the meanderings of the Missouri River to a point in a direct line twenty-four miles, from place of beginning; thence west to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers, or to the eastern boundary line of Dodge County; thence south along said line twenty-four miles; thence east to the place of beginning."

By the same act Fort Calhoun was made the county seat; the organization of the county was then completed by the appointment by the governor of the following county officers: Stephen Cass, probate judge; George W. Neville, clerk; George Martin, treasurer, and Thomas J. Allen, sheriff.

Washington County was placed in a judicial district made up of Washington and Burt counties, with Judge James Bradley as presiding judge. This was in 1854, but in 1856 Washington County together with Douglas, Dodge, Washington, Dakota and Burt counties into one judicial district, presided over at first by Judge Fenner Ferguson.

For the organization and description of local history of the several township histories the reader is referred to the Township History section of this work. It may be added, however, in this connection that the present civil townships in Washington County include the following: Herman, Sheridan, Grant, Lincoln, Cuming City, Fontenelle, Arlington, Richland, Fort Calhoun, De Soto and Blair.

AN ABSTRACT OF NEBRASKA AND WASHINGTON COUNTY

The present State of Nebraska and Washington County have been carved from territory located, bounded and possessed by countries as follows: Pioneer W. H. Woods, of Fort Calhoun, and correspondent of the State Historical Society, in a paper published in 1915, is our authority for the subjoined abstract of this county and state:

Louisiana Purchase, 1803. Louisiana Territory, 1805. Territory of Missouri, 1812. Indian Territory, 1834. Nebraska Territory, 1852. Separated from Kansas, 1854. Nebraska State, 1867. Washington County, 1854. Reorganized Washington County, 1860. Cavillier History: Fur trading post, 1802. Lewis & Clark two camps; and one council with the Indians—"Council Point" and "Pumice Stone Camp," 1804. General Atkinson and the farthest military post in the United States—"Camp Missouri," "Camp Hook" and Fort Atkinson, Fort Calhoun, 1819-27. and Major Long's engineers' cantonment and outfitting station, 1819-20.

The oldest known cavalier in Nebraska, Captain Contal, who was brought by his parents to old Fort Atkinson, died in Blair, 1903. And old Rockport, in this county, claims Madame Lesa, 1819, the first white woman to settle on Nebraska soil. Fort Calhoun, Washington County, claims the first apple orchard in the state, the first county courthouse and the first church parsonage in Nebraska. Fontanelle the first seminary in the state, and Cuming City the first \$20,000 college incorporation in the state. Blair holds a chip over her shoulder over her pioneer Jacob Goll who came to Washington County in 1847 and settled on his claim in 1849 and was buried in Blair in 1906. In 1854 the Fontanelle colony purchased twenty miles square from the Indians for \$100 dollars in gold (some over the amount was a \$10 gold coin). The Lewis & Clark monument was erected at Fort Calhoun in the school campus with military ceremonies August 3, 1904. The old fort was established here by General Atkinson in 1819, 780 miles from St. Louis and 580 miles from a postoffice and abandoned in 1827. In 1822 they farmed 556 acres of land; had a grist and sawmill, library and school. In 1823 the troops raised and gathered 8,839 bushels of corn. Antone Barada, the strongest man ever known on the Missouri River, was born near the mouth of Fish Creek in 1807. Fort Calhoun with its beautiful park, history and scenery is the finest place in the state for the gatherings of the pioneers and old settlers.

Fort Calhoun is one of the chief corner-stones in the history of the West, between St. Louis and the British possessions. Beside Lewis and Clark and old Fort Atkinson here at the fort is recorded the story of the first New Year celebration in what is now nine states, in 1821, and here too, the first white child born in that region in 1824. Here, soon after the great chief, Logan Fontenelle, and Mary La Fleshe, the wife of his successor, and here too is buried the first white girl that made her home in the present City of Omaha, and the very first mail route north of Kansas was established by act of Congress in 1854 to run from Table Creek and end at Fort Calhoun.

Ten miles southwest of Fort Calhoun was the winter quarters of the Mormons on their way to Salt Lake, who raised 300 soldiers for the Mexican war, probably in 1846 and probably one or two years after the famous Mormon Prophets Brigham Young and Oscar Pratt spent one winter in log cabins four miles northwest of Fort Calhoun. Brigham Young's cabin still remained in 1871. Previous to 1860 the north line of Washington County lay one mile north of Fort Calhoun and the south line two miles south of Florence. Florence or "Winter Quarters" was the county seat. Fontanelle was then the county seat of Dodge County.

Fort Calhoun was sixty years old in March, 1915, and celebrated her second pioneer centennial for Fort Atkinson September 19, 1919, to follow her Lewis and Clark centennial celebrated in 1904. Thus Washington County from 1804 to 1860 contained more real pioneer history than all the rest of Nebraska.

Nebraska Territory in 1852 contained all the lands belonging to the United States for 800 miles west of the State of Missouri and north to British Columbia, now seven states and territories, and in that entire region there were 300 white men, each holding a license from the government at Washington, and the soldiers were ordered to see that no more white men be permitted to make homes in this territory now peopled by millions.

COUNTY SEAT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

The following is a concise description of locating the various county seats of Washington County, the same is by the pen of Frank McNeely and may therefore be relied upon as correct:

"In 1855 an act was passed by the Territorial Legislature reorganizing Washington County and designating Fort Calhoun, as the county seat.

"De Soto, a small village five miles north of Fort Calhoun, wished the county seat to be moved there. In the winter of 1858 a crowd of De Soto citizens organized and with arms went to Fort Calhoun to take the county seat by force. Fort Calhoun citizens barricaded themselves in the log courthouse and held off the De Soto band until the afternoon of the second day when by compromise the county seat was turned over to De Soto. One man was killed in this contest in which I was a participant.

"The county seat remained in De Soto until an election in the fall of 1866, when the vote of the people re-located it at Fort Calhoun where it remained until 1869. An election in the latter year made Blair the county seat.

"A courthouse was built in Blair, the present county seat of Washington county, in 1889 at a cost of \$50,000.

"In the early days every new town (and they were all new) was ambitious to become the county seat and many of them hoped to have the honor of becoming the capital of the territory. Washington County had its full share of aspiring towns and most of them got beyond the paper stage. There were De Soto, Fort Calhoun, Rockport, Cuming City and last but not least—Fontanelle then in Washington County, now a deserted village in Dodge County. Of these only Fort Calhoun remains more than a memory. De Soto was founded by Potter C. Sullivan and others in 1854 and in 1857 had about five hundred population. It began to go down in 1859 and when the city of Blair was started its decline was rapid. Rockport, which was in the vicinity of the fur trading establishments of early days, was a steamboat landing of some importance and had at one time a population of half a hundred or more. Now only the beautiful landscape remains. Cuming City like De Soto, received its death blow when Blair was founded and now the townsite is given over to agricultural purposes."

CHAPTER II

INDIAN TREATY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPLORERS HOLD COUNCIL WITH INDIANS IN 1804—BURIAL OF BIG ELK, LAST CHIEF TO DIE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—BURIED NEAR FORT CALHOUN IN 1854—EARLY SETTLEMENT BY WHITE MEN—FORTS ATKINSON AND CALHOUN—SETTLEMENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTY—AN INTERESTING REMINISCENCE ON EARLY DAYS—WHERE THE PIONEERS EMIGRATED FROM—THE MORMON'S SOJOURN—THE QUINCY COLONY—CLAIM-JUMPING AND EARLY MURDER.

FIRST WHITE SETTLEMENT

The first white settlement to be effected within what is now known as Washington County was that made about old Fort Atkinson—later called Fort Calhoun, hard by the west bank of the Missouri River in the southeastern part of the present limits of the county, in about 1819, when Fort Atkinson was constructed by the United States Government, and which event was made the subject of a well-attended centennial celebration at Fort Calhoun in 1919. Some time after Lewis and Clark made their report on this section of the country, and prior to 1818, the first white men commenced to invade this territory as traders and explorers. The reader is referred to further articles on the settlement as shown in the various township and village histories of this work, wherein names and dates are entered into more in detail than is necessary in this connection.

THE SECOND SETTLEMENT

After the settlement by army families and traders at Fort Calhoun vicinity, came the Fontanelle settlement in the western portion of the county, by the Quincy Colony, who settled under the auspices of the "Nebraska Colonization Company," in 1854. The account of this noted settlement is found in this work in the township history section. (See Fontanelle Township.)

THE DE SOTO SETTLEMENT

The settlement made at and in the vicinity of De Soto, was made in 1854-55, and within a few months more than thirty log cabins were erected and soon occupied by newcomers. Just below that point the fleeing Mormon band (Latter Day Saints) in their flight from Nauvoo, Illinois, had stopped about 1846 and remained several years before going on to the Promised Land—Utah. Near De Soto lived their illustrious leader—Brigham Young and Orson Pratt, on land where later the De Soto flouring mill was built. The early gentiles found many brick-bats left from the brick kilns burned by the Mormon settlers. (See De Soto history.)

OTHER SETTLEMENTS

An account of other settlements in this county will be found in the several township and village histories in this volume. (See index.)

DEPARTED PIONEERS

In August, 1920, historian W. H. Woods of Fort Calhoun, of the Old Settlers' Association, reported the following persons who had passed from earth's shining circle since last year, the same being Territorial pioneers, those who resided in Washington County when it was yet in the Territory of Nebraska:

Ephriam Gilliam, Herman Stork, James R. Hastings, George N. Weise Oliver O. Fox, Mrs. Anna Ruwe, Mrs. Soren Asmussen, Anna H. Webber, Mrs. J. P. Wishart, Carl Otto Jensen, F. N. Gilliland, Oliver Bouvier, Mrs. Mary Teats, George Sutherland, Charles Osterman, Mrs. Cornelia Olsen, Mrs. J. W. Newell, Sr., Mrs. Mary E. Parker, W. G. Cunningham, Duane Brown, A. C. Jones, I. N. Branhall, Thomas P. Kennard, George W. Watson.

HISTORIC ITEMS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mrs. May Allen Lazure, well-known to the people of Washington County, a few years since made this historic record of some interesting items on the early day history of the county, and from such writings we are permitted to quote freely:

Alfred D. Jones, the first postmaster of Omaha, tells in the Pioneer Record of the first Fourth of July celebration in Omaha and Nebraska, as well.

"On July 4th, 1854, I was employed in the work of surveying the townsite of Omaha. At this time there were only two cabins on the townsite, my postoffice building and the company claim house. The latter was used as our boarding house. Inasmuch as the Fourth would be a holiday, I concluded it would be a novelty to hold a celebration on Nebraska soil. I therefore announced that we would hold a celebration and invited the people of Council Bluffs, by inserting a notice in the paper, and requested that those who would participate should prepare a lunch for the occasion.

"We got forked stakes and poles along the river, borrowed bolts of sheeting from the store of James A. Jackson, and thus equipped, we erected an awning to shelter from the sun those who attended. Anvils were procured, powder purchased and placed in charge of cautious gunners, to make a noise for the crowd. The celebration was held on the present high school grounds.

"The picnickers came with their baskets, and the gunner discharged his duty nobly. A stranger in our midst was introduced as Mr. Sawyer, an ex-congressman from Ohio."

I had a life-long acquaintance with one of those early picnickers, Mrs. Rhoda Craig, a daughter of Thomas Allen, who built the first house in Omaha. She often told the story of the first Fourth of July celebration there. Their fear of the Indians was so great that as soon as dinner was over, they hurried to their boats and rowed across to Council Bluffs for safety.

Another pioneer woman was Aimee Taggart Kenny, who came to Fontanelle with her parents when a small child. Her father was a Baptist missionary in Nebraska, and his earliest work was with the Quincy Colony. I have heard her tell the following experience:

"On several occasions we were warned that the Indians were about to attack us. In great fear we gathered in the schoolhouse and watched all night, the men all well armed. But we were never molested. Another

time, mother was alone with us children. Seeing the Indians approaching we locked the doors, went into the attic by means of an outside ladder and looked out through the cracks. We saw the red men try the door, peep in at the window, and then busy themselves chewing up mother's home-made hop yeast, which had been spread out to dry. They made it into balls and tossed it all away."

John T. Bell of Newberg, Oregon, contributed the following:

"I have a pleasant recollection of your grandfather Allen. My father's and mother's people were all Southerners and there was a kindness about Mr. and Mrs. Allen that reminded me of my own folks back in Illinois. I often stopped to see them when going to and from Calhoun mill.

"I was also well acquainted with Mrs. E. H. Clark, and Rev. Mr. Taggart and his family were among the most highly esteemed residents of our little settlement of Fontanelle. Mr. Taggart was a man of fine humor. It was the custom in those early days for the entire community to get together on New Year's Day and have a dinner at the 'College.' There would be speech-making, and I remember that on one occasion Mr. Taggart said that no doubt the time would come when we would all know each other's real names and why we left the States.

"The experiences of the Bell family with the early Nebraska days were ones of privation. We came to Nebraska in 1856, quite well equipped with stock—four good horses and four young cows which we had driven behind the wagon from Western Illinois. The previous winter had been very mild and none of the settlers were prepared for the dreadful snow storm which came on the last day of November and continued for three days and nights. Our horses and cows were in the stable made by squaring up the head of a small gulch and covering the structure with slough grass. At the end of the storm when father could get out to look after the stock there was no sign of the stable. The low ground it occupied was leveled off by many feet of snow. He finally located the roof and found the stock alive and that was about all. The animals suffered greatly that winter and when spring came we had left only one horse and no cows. That lone horse was picking the early grass when he was bitten in the nose by a rattle snake and died from the effects. One of those horses 'Old Fox' was a noble character. We had owned him as long as I could remember and when he died we children all cried. I have since owned a good many horses but not one equalled Old Fox in the qualities that go to make up a perfect creature.

"After the Civil war my brother Will and I were the only members of our family left in Nebraska. We served with Grant and Sherman and then went back to Fontanelle, soon afterward beginning the improvement of our farm on Bell Creek in the western part of the county. By that time conditions had so improved in Nebraska that hardships were not so common. I was interested in tree planting even as a boy and one of the distinct recollections of our first summer in Nebraska was getting so severely poisoned in the woods on the Elkhorn, when digging up young sprouts, that I was entirely blind. A colored man living in Fontanelle told father that white paint would cure me and so I was painted wherever there was a breaking out with satisfactory results.

"Later the planting of cottonwood, box elder, maple and other trees became a general industry in Nebraska and I am confident that I planted 20,000 trees, chiefly cottonwood. To J. Sterling Morton, one

of Nebraska's earliest and most useful citizens, Nebraska owed a debt of gratitude. He was persistent in the advocating of planting trees. In his office hung a picture of an oak tree; on his personal cards was a picture of an oak tree with the legend 'Plant Trees'; on his letterheads, on his envelopes was borne the same injunction and the picture of an oak tree. On the marble door step of his home was cut the picture of an oak tree and the words 'Plant Trees'; on the ground glass of the entrance door was the same emblem. I went to a theater he had built and on the drop curtain was a picture of an oak tree and the words, 'Plant trees'; today the body of this useful citizen lies buried under the trees he planted in Wyuka Cemetery, near Nebraska City."

CLAIM-JUMPING AND AN EARLY MURDER

Fort Calhoun was the scene of one of the earliest murders in Washington County—the date was in the month of June, 1855. From the most reliable data concerning this unfortunate affair, and which has found its way into the annals prepared by the Daughters of the American Revolution, we are permitted to here give in brief its history:

In June of the year 1855, for the consideration of a one-ninth interest in the town, E. H. Clark contracted with the proprietors to put up a building on the town site for a hotel, said building to be 24 by 28 feet, two stories high and with an ell of the same dimensions, the structure to be of hewn logs and put up in good style. The contract was in writing and as soon as the building was completed each member of the company was to deed Mr. Clark by quit-claim, his proportion of the lots to be taken indiscriminately from all parts of the town. He immediately, with six men, commenced the getting out of the timber, boarding in the meantime with Major Arnold's family and laboring under many disadvantages, both for want of skilled laborers and teams. The men were newly arrived from Virginia none of whom had ever done manual labor but were out of money and must do something; so had imposed themselves on Mr. Clark as men from a timbered country and used to such work and as hands were not readily obtained in those days he had to submit, paying them \$2 a day each, and their board. For teams he hired a yoke of oxen from the settlers as they could spare them from their own work. What lumber was necessary for the building had to be obtained from Omaha (where a mill had been started) at \$60 per thousand and hauled in a circuitous route by the old Mormon Trail, a distance of eighteen miles.

About August 10, the claim cabin of the town company having been vacated, one Charles T. Davis in a very unostentatious manner moved in and filed a claim on the town site and served a written notice on Mr. Clark to quit trespassing on the claim. The latter notified the company of his action and kept on drawing material on the ground for his building and after three days, Davis sued him for trespassing, fixing his damage at \$100 for which he afterwards obtained judgment and Clark paid it. Mr. Clark then notified the company that he should sell his material and leave unless they took steps to put the title out of controversy. They returned word for him to go on with the work and they would guarantee the title. A day or so afterward, when engaged with all the neighbors in raising the building, a number of the company with some friends, ten or twelve in all, came up and wanted Clark to join them in removing Davis forcibly from the claim,

which he declined to do. While parleying over the matter, a man was seen going at full speed on horseback from the claim cabin toward De Soto and as it was already known that the settlement at De Soto was to back Davis in his attempt to hold the Calhoun townsite (De Soto being a rival), Clark told the company the sooner they got over the better, if they were going, for Davis would soon have help from De Soto. They thought not and still insisted that all the settlers around Calhoun were interested and should go and assist. The talk was continued until dinner time and then the party went off to dinner and when returning they saw two wagon loads of armed men coming from De Soto and going into the house with Davis. It was thought by representatives of the company useless to attack them but they proposed that the entire party should go, so as to show as strong a force as possible in order to scare Davis off and that if he would not go that they would come again when he was not expecting it and put him off. To this the settlers agreed and all marched over to the house and were drawn up in line in front of the door which was closed. Col. Addison Cochran, as spokesman, knocked at the door which was answered by Davis within, demanding what they wanted. Cochran told them he knew the claim belonged to the town company and they wanted him to leave peaceably and that if he did not, they should put him off by force. Davis' attorney, Potter C. Sullivan, replied claiming some legal ground for Davis' action and it was agreed that he should come outside and talk the matter over with Cochran. While they were talking, the door was opened and someone from the inside said he would like to "put a bullet through Thompson"—one of the party outside—whereupon some words passed when Thompson and the man making the remark, each drew their revolvers and fired at the same time but neither shot took effect. The line was drawn up about twenty-five feet from the door, and as soon as these shots were fired, a dozen guns were seen pointed from the cabin and shot after shot was fired upon Cochran and his retreating party, three of which shots took effect, one through the heart of John Goss, Sr., killing him instantly; one through the arm of H. C. Purple, so shattering it that it was two or three years before he recovered and only after seven surgical operations had been performed by the most skilled surgeons of Chicago. Both of these parties were the proprietors in the town site. The third shot took effect in the thigh of Mr. Thompson, who had words with the man inside, but it was only a flesh wound from which he soon recovered. When Mr. Goss fell, Mr. Clark was still standing before the door and his escape was miraculous, as bullets whistled on every side. He immediately ran to Mr. Goss' assistance and while holding his head a number of shots were fired at him and after laying him down and going in search of his son who returned to the body with him, the occupants of the house kept firing at them but with no effect though not over fifty feet distant. The escape of the two men can only be accounted for by the excited condition of those who held the guns. The body of Goss was put in a wagon and conveyed to his home in Iowa and there buried. This sad affair was a terrible blow to the community and none knew what would happen next as it was feared that such feelings were aroused that many more would be killed by being waylaid or otherwise.

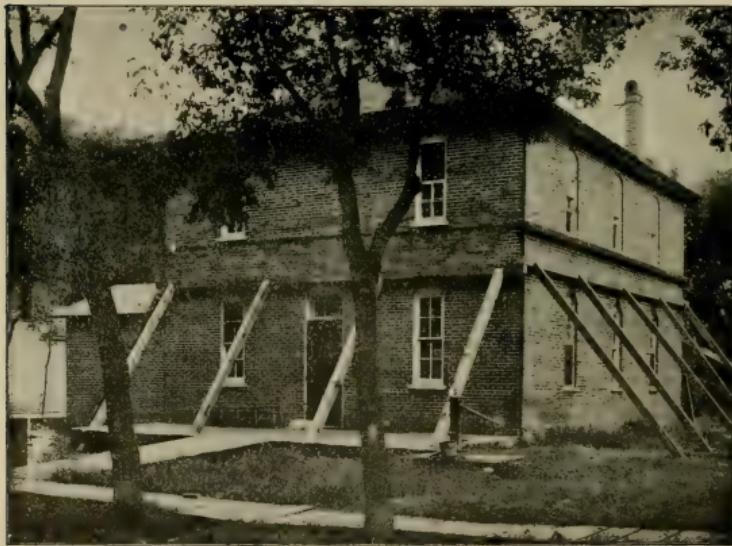
The night after this affray, Davis sent his attorney, Sullivan, to Omaha, to compromise the matter, he doubtless fearing another attack. The town company agreed with Sullivan to arbitrate the right to the townsite, and that all hostilities on both sides, and all work on the

site should be suspended until after the arbitration, which was to be by disinterested parties chosen, one from Bellevue, one from Nebraska City, and one from Glenwood. The time fixed was a month from that date and when the time came the arbitrators could not get together and in fact never did meet. Thus the matter rested till November when Davis, who all the time had not felt safe, made a sale, or pretended sale, to Major Anselum Arnold, Thomas J. Allen, Jesse Eststock, and James M. Taggart and they with Cassady and Test, John Goss, Mrs. John Goss, Sr., formed a new town company, taking Mr. Clark in as an equal proprietor, providing he should go on and complete his hotel building according to the original contract, which he did, and in March, 1856, gave Col. George Stevens, then in the Douglas House at Omaha, a one-half interest in the building on condition he would move into it and open a hotel. This Colonel Stevens did during that month and the house was long celebrated as one of the best kept hotels in the West.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

FIRST HOUSE IN WHICH U. S. COURT AND DISTRICT COURT WAS HELD
IN DE SOTO IN 1859 AS IT APPEARED BEFORE IT WAS TORN DOWN



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

FIRST COURTHOUSE IN BLAIR AS IT APPEARED PROPPED UP PRIOR TO
ERECTION OF PRESENT BUILDING

CHAPTER III

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY BUILDINGS—FIRST COURTHOUSE—PRESENT BUILDING—VARIOUS COUNTY JAILS—LIST OF COUNTY OFFICERS—VALUATIONS OF COUNTY —FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1920, ETC.

Washington County like other Nebraska counties has had various kinds of county governments—the precinct and later the township organization form—first one and then the other. The offices of county commissioners and the county supervisors are in reality about the same. As a general rule the affairs of Washington County have been well managed by representative citizens who had held local offices for the best interests of the tax-paying citizens. No great political or office-holding scandals have blackened the pages of its history of more than three score years. One thing is noticeable here—that when men possessed the right qualifications for offices to which they have been elected, they have been allowed to remain in office so long as they did their official duties, and not changed for new men simply because it was some other man's turn to hold office, which has too frequently been the case in other sections of the state.

COUNTY BUILDINGS

Washington County's first courthouse was erected at Fort Calhoun in 1856, of cottonwood lumber. It was built by subscription, and some declare it was also used for school purposes, but others dispute this claim. Governor L. Crounse once stated his experiences, when he was judge of the State Supreme Court and rode the circuit. Fort Calhoun was one of his stations and he held court here for the first time after his election. It was also in this building that the famous Senator Paddock was admitted to the bar. The building above mentioned served as seat of justice until the county seat was removed (by force) to De Soto, five miles north of Fort Calhoun, in 1858. The county seat remained at De Soto until the autumn of 1866, but no regular courthouse was erected by the county at De Soto. From there the county seat was returned to Fort Calhoun, where it remained until 1869, then went to Blair.

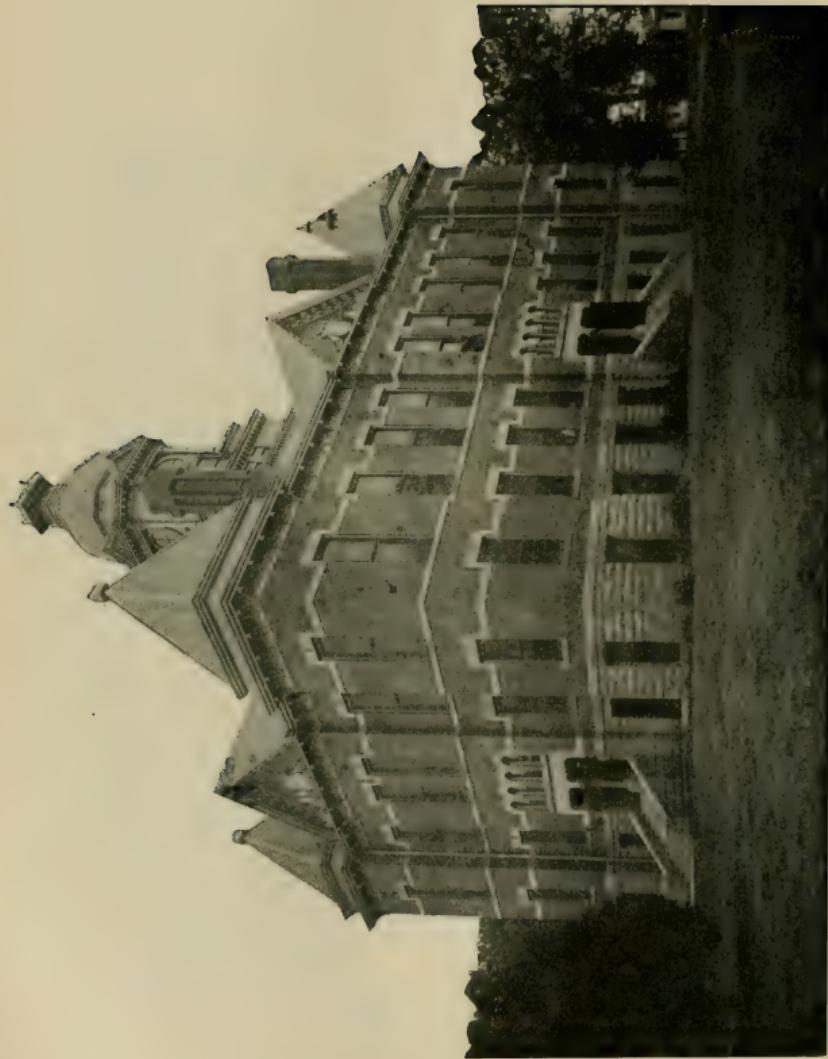
A courthouse was built at Blair. This building, however, was erected by a firm of contractors for school purposes, as a private speculation, but the school authorities failed to purchase it from the builders, hence when the county seat was moved to Blair, bought by the county and was used as the first courthouse there and continued in use as the home of the various county offices and courtrooms until the present magnificent structure was built in 1889, an account of which follows:

PRESENT COURTHOUSE

June 14, 1889, the question of building a new courthouse was submitted to the tax-payers of Washington County and the result was 1,263 for bonding the county for \$35,000, and the number of votes against the proposition was 874.

COURTHOUSE, BLAIR

(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)



About the same time the City of Blair voted on a proposition to give \$5,000 toward the courthouse building, in case a suitable structure was erected. The vote at that special city election stood 236 for and only 7 against the measure.

The first committee on courthouse building was composed of the chairman of the board, the clerk and Thomas Wilkinson, whose duty it was to have properly printed and registered the several bonds which were to be floated upon the market.

The county board ordered that the new courthouse should be erected on block No. 75, in the City of Blair—the so-called "Jail Block."

The regular building committee was composed of the chairman of the board, E. M. Cook, of Lincoln Township; P. J. Gossard, of Sheridan Township. The chairman was then L. C. Weber, member of the board. A local man named Lou Vaughan was appointed by the board as superintendent of construction. Bids were advertised for and the following were received and acted upon: Julius Schlup, \$37,954; Robert McHale, \$41,000; H. B. Dexter, \$38,165; M. T. Murphy, \$40,700; George Sutherland, \$39,999; Fred Mingadot, \$37,439; Richards & Company, \$35,842; Seeley & Son, \$41,879; Lyone & Sweet, \$36,900. Richards & Company were awarded the contract at \$35,842. The building was constructed of St. Louis pressed brick, trimmed with Warrenburg stone.

At the session of the county board held September 11, 1889, the site for the building was staked off and decided upon. The county surveyor was ordered to set the stakes. At the same session it was ordered that the numerous shade trees upon the courthouse square should be "boxed" in order to protect them from being bruised while building operations were going on. The people of Blair have always been passionately fond of shade trees and used much care to get them well started.

The architect employed by the county to draw plans and carry forward the same was O. H. Placey, who, after the building was partly built, became offended and resigned, as is shown by the following clause in the record-book of the court board: (Date was November, 1889.)

"And now comes O. H. Placey, architect, and announces to the board in open session, that from this time on, he positively refuses to have anything to do, in and about the further work and completion of the new courthouse, and bid the board good-bye and took his hat and passed out."

The contract called for the completion of the building January, 1891, but for various good reasons it was not turned over to the county until March 24, that year. A long statement concerning the acceptance of the building is found recorded on page 220 of Book No. 3, Supervisors Records.

The old courthouse was sold to F. H. Matthiesen February 3, 1891, for \$725.

THE COUNTY JAIL BUILDINGS

No matter how good a community may be, there is at times use for a jail. If it is not by reason of unruly citizens of the county in which it is situated, it is for some act of an unlawful character committed by persons coming in from outside communities, who must needs be punished and it is but wisdom to have provided some safe, secure place in which to confine such unruly persons until tried, or till a penalty has been paid for their illegal acts.

An account of the pioneer jail for Washington County was given by an earlier writer of Washington County history, in which he remarked:

"The county jail is located several squares from the courthouse and is, perhaps, less suited for jail purposes than any similar structure on the face of the earth, being small, inconveniently arranged, and the cells dark and unhealthy. It was built soon after the county seat was located at Blair, and cost some \$8,000. For this sum an excellent jail building, large enough to supply the wants of the county for a half century, could now be built. It seemed to be an absolute necessity, that counties in the West should pay some very expensive lessons, and Washington County in comparison with some of her neighbors, has passed through this experience at a moderate outlay." (This was written in 1876.)

The first jail was situated on the north side of the public square; it was a two-story building and had a jailor's residence in connection. This jail building served until 1904, when the jail was torn down and the present modest brick one-story jail just to the east of the courthouse was built.

It was the jail that was torn down in 1904, in which was placed a murderer from near Fontanelle, early in the nineties, for safe keeping, until he could have his trial for killing his foster father, Mr. Baldwin, in cold blood. Before time for his trial, he succeeded in making his escape by scraping the soft lime stone foundation stones of the jail, in the form of a circular hole large enough for him to crawl out. He was never again seen in this county. The hole in the jail wall was repaired but it ever afterward showed the outline of the hole and was pointed out to hundreds of people, as the place where the murderer made his escape with a table knife.

THE COUNTY FARM

Washington County has always cared well for her unfortunate poor, but never encourages shiftlessness on the part of poor people. The needy cases have been sought out by the county authorities and all who are entitled to aid receive it. Many years ago it was thought the wisest thing to purchase a tract of land which is now known as the "Poor Farm." It consists of eighty acres, just outside the city limits of Blair. The last annual report shows there were only four inmates in the County House—all being men.

The present superintendent and wife are Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Hansen.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICERS—PAST AND PRESENT

COUNTY CLERKS

E. Mathers, 1857; Abraham Castetter, 1861; re-elected every election to 1869, when Peter R. Benner was elected and re-elected in 1871 and 1873; E. C. Jackson, 1875; E. C. Jackson, 1877; J. S. Cook, 1879; Thomas P. Lippincott, 1881; Joe S. Cook, 1883; Wesley J. Cook, 1885; C. Rathman, 1887; C. Rathman, 1889; C. Rathman, 1891; C. Rathman, 1893; Watt Gauldrie, 1895; Watt Gauldrie, 1897; Watt Gauldrie, 1899; F. W. Kenny, Jr., 1901; George H. Faber, 1903; George H. Faber, 1905; M. R. Lippincott, 1907; Ove T. Anderson, 1909; Ove T. Anderson, 1911; Ove T. Anderson, 1914; Ove T. Anderson, 1916; Mary C. Debel, 1918.

COUNTY TREASURERS

George Stevens, 1857; Lewis Tucker, 1858; E. N. Grennell, 1859; re-elected each election until 1863, when Alexander Reed was elected and continued in office until 1875, when J. H. Hungate was elected. In 1877, J. H. Hungate; re-elected in 1879; Frank Harriman, 1881; Frank Harriman, 1883; H. C. Chapman, 1885; E. C. Jackson, 1887; E. C. Jackson, 1889; Joe S. Cook, 1891; Joe S. Cook, 1893; James H. Platz, 1895; James H. Platz, 1897; George H. Faber, 1899; George H. Faber, 1901; E. Z. Russell, 1903; E. Z. Russell, 1905; John F. White, 1907; John F. White, 1909; George Bruse, 1911; George Bruse, 1914; R. G. Allen, 1916; R. G. Allen, 1918.

SHERIFFS

Orrin Rhodes and Hugh McNeely (the latter to fill unexpired term), 1856; Hugh McNeely, 1857; Chester Lusk, 1860; Israel Swihart, 1861; Dan Case, 1868; A. T. Chapin, 1869; Rice Arnold, 1871 and re-elected in 1873 and 1875; J. W. Boggs, 1877 to 1881; W. D. Gross, 1883 to 1885; H. Schneider, 1885 to 1888; F. Harriman, 1889 to 1893; Claus Mencke, 1893 to 1911; Alf A. Compton, 1911 to 1916; M. Mehrens, 1916 and re-elected in 1918.

PROBATE JUDGES

Up to the seventies this county had the office of probate judge; these were the persons who served: James A. Goodrich, 1857; Z. Jackson, 1861; John S. Bowen, 1869 and re-elected 1871; Jesse T. Davis, 1873 and re-elected in 1875.

COUNTY JUDGES

The following is a list of the county judges for Washington County: A. Perkins, 1877-81; E. N. Grennell, 1881-83; Alonzo Perkins, 1883-87; E. T. Farnsworth, 1887-89; P. Hammang, 1889-93; E. C. Jackson, 1893-01; G. C. Marshall, 1901-07; Clark O'Hanlon appointed to succeed Marshall, serving until February, 1911; I. E. Eller, appointed to succeed O'Hanlon and served until 1918; E. B. Carrigan, 1918 to present date.

COUNTY SURVEYORS

Thomas Wilson, 1857, re-elected in 1858; George A. Bingham, 1861; V. C. Lantry, 1869; re-elected 1871; J. C. W. Kline, 1875; W. H. Hill, 1881-89; W. C. Catherwood, 1889-91; W. H. Hill, 1891-1914; Christ Rohwer, 1914.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Eli Bacon, 1857; D. McLacklin, 1858; Charles G. Bisbee, 1869, re-elected 1871; Charles Gross, 1873, re-elected 1875; I. N. Jones, 1877-79; W. V. Miller, 1879-85; J. Henderson, 1885-97; G. C. Marshall, 1897-01; Alfred L. Cook, 1901-05; J. H. Rhoades, 1905-14; N. T. Lund, 1914-18; Mabel Marsh, by appointment upon resignation of Mr. Lund.

CORONERS

Jesse T. Davis, 1861; Charles Emerson Tennant, 1869; H. P. Butler, 1871; Dr. S. B. Taylor, 1873; E. C. Pierce, 1875-85; F. Macumber, 1885-87; J. F. Pettegrew, 1887-89; E. G. Pierce, 1891-1914.

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Up to 1881 the county clerk was ex-officio clerk of the court. Thomas P. Lippincott, 1881; E. C. Jackson, 1882; I. C. Eller, 1883-87; C. Schmachtenberg, 1891; Harland Fawcett, 1895-99-02; Theo. Haller, 1903-07; I. C. Eller, 1908-11; E. C. Jackson, 1911-18 and still in office.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Formerly there was the office of district attorney in Nebraska, but the law was changed and now a county attorney obtains instead. Those of Washington County have included these: L. W. Osborn, 1887; W. E. David, 1893; Clark O'Hanlon, 1894-96; W. C. Walton, 1897; Herman Aye, 1898-1900; Edmund B. Carrigan, 1902-10; Henry Menecke, 1912; George A. Dall, 1914; Henry Menecke, 1916; Grace Ballard, 1918.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The following is a list of the county commissioners who have served in and for Washington County since its organization:

David Franklin, A. Phinney, and John West, 1856; J. B. Wickshire, elected in 1857; E. A. Allen, 1858; E. B. Hamilton, 1859; John Parks, 1860; John Evans and James Stewart, 1861; Silas Masters, 1862; Jacob Carter, 1863; James S. Stewart, re-elected in 1864; John A. Unthank, 1865; W. B. Beals, 1866; Alonzo Perkins, 1867; Thomas Frazier, 1868; Watson Tyson, 1869; Wm. R. Hamilton and David Couchman, 1870; David Couchman re-elected 1871; Wm. R. Hamilton, 1873; H. J. Rohwer, 1874; Charles Selleck, 1875; the board in 1876 consisted of these: W. R. Hamilton, H. J. Rohwer and Charles Selleck; 1877—H. J. Rohwer, Charles Selleck and W. P. Viele; 1878—same as in 1877; 1879—W. P. Viele, H. J. Rohwer and A. M. Bovee; 1880—H. J. Rohwer, A. M. Bovee and R. Blaco; 1881—R. Blaco, A. M. Bovee and H. J. Rohwer; 1882—R. Blaco, O. N. Unthank and H. O. Morse; 1883—O. N. Unthank, H. O. Morse and R. Blaco; 1884—G. A. Crannell, Charles S. Griffin, F. E. Hall; 1885—John Spencer, M. Cameron and S. C. Rose.

At this date a change was made and one supervisor from each precinct in the county became a member of the county board, beginning in 1886 these officers were: Soren Jensen, Watson Tyson, Lee Johnson, James W. Wild, M. Cameron, J. J. Smith, D. P. Scott, John Klotz, John Spencer, John Patrick, Patrick McCarty, L. C. Weber, C. H. Beckman.

1887—J. W. Gaines, C. H. Beckman, W. R. Hamilton, L. C. Weber, John Patrick, Patrick McCarty, M. Cameron, W. Van Arsdale, W. G. Harrison, Thomas Crouch, John H. Maguire, E. M. Cook, James M. Wild.

1888—E. M. Cook, Frank Jahnel, J. S. Stokes, Henry Osterman, L. C. Weber, J. M. Wild, P. J. Gossard, Theo. Haller, M. H. B. Rosen-

balm, Thomas Wilkinson, M. Cameron, Joseph Johnson, Patrick McCarty.

1889—L. C. Weber, Eugene Cook, Frank Jahnel, Henry Boucher, P. J. Gossard, Henry Osterman, W. G. Harrison, Joe S. Cook, Samuel Warrick, J. M. Souder, John Henrichsen, Thomas Wilkinson, O. V. Remington, L. C. Weber.

1890—L. C. Weber, J. M. Souder, E. M. Cook, S. Warrick, J. S. Cook, W. G. Harrison, John Henrichsen, W. W. McKinney, Henry Osterman, P. G. Gossard, Henry Boucher, John Klotz and George Neff.

1891—W. G. Harrison, James Cruickshank, G. W. Neff, George Rohwer, Thomas Wilkinson, W. W. McKinney, E. M. Cook, L. C. Weber, P. J. Gossard, John Klotz, Henry Osterman, J. M. Souder and S. Warrick.

1892—L. C. Weber, W. G. Harrison, Samuel Warrick, J. M. Souder, R. Broderson, T. B. Pawling, E. M. Cook, H. Savage, George Rohwer, James Cruickshank, Henry Osterman and Thomas Wilkinson.

1893—James Cruickshank, Joseph Hammang, George W. Matteson, H. J. Carpenter, George Rohwer, D. H. Noble, Frank Jahnel.

From this date on the districts in the county were represented as follows:

1894—Frank Jahnel, Wm. Gray, G. Mehrens, George Drevsen, T. B. Pawling, W. W. McKinney, R. Broderson, W. R. Downs.

1895—B. P. Miller, Chester C. Marshall, Henry Rohwer, James R. Smith, James Cruickshank, H. J. Carpenter, E. Castetter.

1896—C. C. Marshall, T. B. Pawling, J. R. Smith, B. P. Miller, Frank Jahnel, William Gray, James R. Smith.

1897—William Gray, W. D. Gross, H. Rohwer, G. M. Whitford, T. B. Pawling, W. W. McKinney, J. M. Whitford and R. Broderson.

1898—M. Johnson, R. Broderson, W. D. Gross, T. B. Pawling, John D. Eakin, William Gray, Henry Rohwer.

1899—(Record of names not clear in Minute book.)

1900—A. O. Pound, William Wilson, H. J. Carpenter, F. A. Reynolds, L. K. Davies, H. Rohwer, John Blaco.

1901—Messrs. Day, Meier, Blaco, Davies, Gray, Wrich and Wilson.

1902—John Blaco, Meier, Reynolds, Magnus Johnson, J. L. Day, Hy Wrich, Wm. Gray.

1903—Henry Wrich, Joe S. Cook, P. T. Badgerow, H. D. Schoettger, F. A. Reynolds, Magnus Johnson, John Blaco.

1904—Joe S. Cook, Hy Wrich, P. T. Badgerow, H. D. Schoettger, S. W. Cushman, Fred Echtenkamp, Lee Smith.

1905—Joe S. Cook, Lee Smith, P. T. Badgerow, S. W. Cushman, Fred Echtenkamp, H. D. Schoettger, Henry Wrich.

1906—(No record.)

1907—Elected—E. W. Burdick, James E. Maher, Fred Ramser.

1909—Fred H. Heuermann, James E. Maher.

1911—Elected—E. W. Burdick.

1912—James E. Maher, Fred Heuermann and E. W. Burdick.

1913—James E. Maher, E. W. Burdick and Fred Heuermann.

1914—Same as above.

1915—Same as above.

1916—Same as above.

1917—James E. Maher, Fred Heuermann and Charles Nelson.

1918—Same as above.

1919—Charles Nelson, H. C. Blaco and John F. White.

1920—Same as above.

VALUATIONS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—1920

FARM PROPERTY

	Land	Improvements	Total	Per Acre
Arlington Township	\$4,829,650	\$323,225	\$5,152,875	\$210
Sheridan Township	4,222,890	299,750	4,522,640	225
Fontanelle Township	5,159,440	410,450	5,569,890	224
Richland Township	4,719,335	344,760	5,064,095	213
Lincoln Township	4,908,075	330,920	5,238,995	210
Grant Township	4,189,320	226,075	4,424,395	187
Blair Township	4,028,760	341,360	4,367,920	169
Herman Township	2,786,555	138,850	2,925,305	155
Cuming City Township ...	3,516,810	162,400	3,667,510	159
Fort Calhoun Township ..	4,105,875	250,100	4,355,975	135
De Soto Township	947,070	64,120	1,011,190	110
Total	\$43,422,780	\$2,982,010	\$46,300,790	

CITY PROPERTY—1920

	Land value	Improvements	Total
Blair City	\$681,345	\$3,183,175	\$1,865,020
Arlington Village	185,725	351,005	586,730
Calhoun Village	82,110	115,100	197,260
Herman Village	160,310	197,075	357,385
Kennard Village	76,355	171,550	247,905
Washington Village	46,400	49,550	95,950
Total	\$1,232,295	\$4,067,455	\$3,301,250

TOTAL VALUATIONS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY—1920

	Actual value	Assessed value
Real estate (farm property)	\$46,300,790	\$9,260,158
Real estate (city property)	3,301,250	620,250
Personal property of county.....	9,769,820	1,953,964
Railway terminal valuations.....	2,146,475	423,295
Western Union Telegraph Company.....	24,275	4,855
Telephone companies	94,770	18,954
Insurance companies	335,425	67,085
Pullman Car Company	2,685	537
Express Company	4,785	957
Total valuation of county.....	\$61,950,275	\$12,390,055

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a copy of the county treasurer's semi-annual statement in Washington County for the half year ending June 30, 1920:

Name of fund	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
State funds	\$75,727.41	\$84,005.43	\$5,520.11
County general	23,001.06	27,132.29	1,145.77
County road	14,109.01	21,711.86	11,109.60
County bridge	16,631.38	18,263.07	3,855.21

Name of fund	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
Advertising	\$.20	.....	\$ .20
O. & N. W. interest	325.31	\$ 862.26	107.81
O. & N. W. sinking	5,298.97	5,003.31	1,878.23
S. & P. interest	805.21	925.71	463.19
S. C. & P. sinking	4,004.38	10,013.90	640.54
Soldier's relief	422.78	.....	422.91
County ditch	4,569.06	3.91	6,434.31
Elkhorn drainage	200.50	650.00	12.12
Burt and Washington county drainage	1,193.20	15,000.00	272.73
Inheritance	9,442.65	2,201.18	9,881.69
District school	44,475.55	105,843.11	27,746.58
School bond	10,412.67	1,032.46	13,746.77
Blair City	4,867.07	10,288.74	3,180.33
Arlington Village	3,015.70	2,875.50	2,086.96
Kennard Village	644.47	1,788.01	174.11
Fort Calhoun	858.92	1,378.00	431.71
Herman Village	2,777.30	2,740.00	785.68
Washington Village	237.49	.....	347.60
Fines	120.00	.....	80.00
Fees	3,177.32	1,624.00	1,590.75
Redemptions	253.17	6,495.54	689.93
Motor licenses .....	.....	3.75	536.35
De Soto ditch	346.33	.....	346.33
Calhoun ditch	320.88	.....	320.88
Interest on deposits .....	.....	.....	.....
Total	\$279,646.28	\$319,841.95	\$90,411.28

CHAPTER IV

RAILROADS OF THE COUNTY

THE OLD SIOUX CITY & PACIFIC—THE OLD OMAHA & NORTHWESTERN —THE PRESENT CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN SYSTEM THROUGH THE COUNTY.

For the earliest railroad projects in this and adjoining counties the reader is referred to the Chapter on Railroads found in the Dodge County section of this work.

It may be stated in this connection, however, that in 1864 what was designated as the Northern Nebraska Air Line Railroad Company was organized, but nothing was done towards its construction. In 1867 the company was re-organized, consisting of John S. Bowen, John A. Unthank, Dean C. Slader, Jesse T. Davis and T. P. Kennard, the object being to build a railroad from De Soto to Fremont. A land grant of seventy-five sections of State land was donated the company in aid of the enterprise, and a temporary line was built from De Soto to the present site of the City of Blair.

In 1868 the company disposed of its rights and franchise to John I. Blair, the great railroad builder and his able associates, who the following year completed the road from Missouri Valley, Iowa, to Fremont, Nebraska. Washington County aided this project by voting bonds to the amount of \$75,000.

THE PRESENT NORTH AND SOUTH RAILWAY

Evidently satisfied with the result of the above named company's operations, the people of this county in 1870 voted on and issued bonds to the amount of \$125,000 in favor of what was styled the Omaha & Northwestern, and in 1872 this railroad was finished as far north as present Herman, this county, and a few years later was extended on to Sioux City. This road has long since been the paying property of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Company, and is closely allied with the great Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company. This gives the people of Washington County a direct outlet to the Twin Cities and the Great Lakes of the North, as well as to the South, via Omaha and Kansas City.

THE CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD

Prior to about 1900 the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Company owned and operated the roads in this and adjoining counties, but at that date the consolidation with the "Northwestern" system took place. It was early in the eighties that the company built a branch line from Arlington, this county, to Omaha, via South Omaha, thus giving direct shipping facilities for live stock with the Omaha markets. This line runs through Washington Village, and has sidings at other points in the county today. So in fact, today every railroad within Washington County is under the control of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Corporation. These lines connect with the Union Pacific both

at Fremont and Omaha; also at Fremont with the lines running to the great northwestern country, including the Black Hills and Wyoming districts. Indeed these roads are worth every dollar they cost the tax-payers back in the eighties.

PRESENT MILEAGE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

The clerk's books at Blair show the county's mileage to be at this date (1920) as follows:

The Chicago & Northwestern lines amount to 26.23 miles; The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha amounts to 24.70 miles; total mileage in Washington County, 50.93 miles.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING

GENERAL FACTS—COMPARATIVE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS—THE GRANGE MOVEMENT—ANNUAL PREMIUM LIST—REGISTERED FARM NAMES.

Washington County is among Nebraska's finest agricultural districts. From the early times the county has been noted for its rich soil and excellent annual crops. At first small grain was the larger of the crops grown, but as time went on, corn became the staple as it still continues to be. Stock-growing has for many years been a leading and most profitable farm industry. The present beautiful rural scenes—the well tilled fields, the great pastures of clover and alfalfa, the orchards and general departments, even to the poultry yards, each and all show the passerby a scene of thrift and prosperity seldom observed in the state. Aside from the few manufacturing concerns in the City of Blair, this is almost exclusively a farm county. With the passing years the farmers have paid off the former debts contracted—have made the best of improvements in way of farm buildings, including the modern silos, the neat poultry and hog houses, the many miles of stock-tight wire fencing, etc., have made farming a pleasure in place of a drudge. To be the owner of a Washington County farm is to be an independent, prosperous and contented person, whose lot has been cast in pleasant places.

COUNTY FAIRS

There were at least two attempts at Agricultural Annual Fairs in Washington County prior to the one two years ago which has brought into existence a society that will doubtless remain permanent for the good of every agriculturist within the "Kingdom of Washington." Along in the seventies a fair society was organized and grounds secured to the northeast of the City of Blair. After a few years of success that society went down. Again another society was formed and had its grounds to the southeast of the City of Blair and there many good annual exhibits were had, but in time that too, for various reasons, succumbed to the almost inevitable in county fairs and also died. No trace of the grounds covered with improvements is to be seen today at Blair.

SECOND ANNUAL PREMIUM LISTS

Within the handsome second annual premium lists of the Washington County Agricultural Society (1920) appeared this announcement, and is indeed worthy of preservation in the county's annals:

"Washington County is recognized as one of the richest counties in Nebraska. In soil, rain fall and general climate conditions it is not excelled by any county in our state or in adjoining states. The farmers of Washington County are progressive, alert, and at least equal in their methods and achievements to those of any other locality in the great Middle West.

"It is therefore desirable that once every year the splendid products of our county should be displayed in a county fair, not in a spirit of boasting of what has been accomplished, but rather in the spirit of emulation with a desire and aim at greater achievement and perfection.

"A fair rightly conducted is educational. If by comparison we find ourselves in the front rank in our line of endeavor, we know that our methods are right and we emphasize them; if to improve our own methods.

"The Washington County Agricultural Society was organized for the purpose of stimulating greater interest in the almost unlimited agricultural possibilities of our county, to improve the live stock and other products of the farm, to promulgate better methods in food and feed conservation, to promote domestic science and art-craft and to foster and encourage anything that will tend to the highest possible develop-



CATTLE

ment of the resources of our county and thus promote the prosperity of its people.

"With all these ends in view we will hold our second annual fair at Arlington, September 22, 23 and 24, 1920. You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the exhibition. The premiums herein offered are not intended as the main object of exhibiting your products or work, but merely as a recognition of its merits as compared with those of your neighbors.

"We realize the need of co-operation. A few cannot inaugurate a successful fair. It requires the co-operation of all the 'live wires' in the county. Counting on your participation, we hope to have a fair worthy of the name 'Washington County.'"

COMPARATIVE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

According to the assessor's books for 1880 the following returns on agricultural products for Washington County were made: Spring wheat, 18,165 acres, 217,980 bushels; corn, 35,876 acres, 1,400,000 bushels; barley, 205 acres, 2,460 bushels; oats, 5,016 acres; 235,750 bushels; buckwheat, 66 acres raised 585 bushels; sorghum, 106 acres produced 10,357

gallons of syrup; flax, 211 acres, 1,776 bushels; broom corn, 9 tons; potatoes (Irish), 543 acres yielding 39,706 bushels.

The number of fruit trees in the county in 1879 was 387, mostly apple, pear, plum and cherry trees. Number grape vines, 13,000 vines.

ASSESSOR'S STATISTICS IN 1920

According to the assessor's books and reports for 1920 the following figures have been compiled for Washington County:

Yearling steers, 2,998; yearling heifers, 3,079; two-year-old steers, 1,092; two-year-old heifers, 2,060; three-year-old steers, 52; cows and calves, 1,559; dairy cows, 1,267; milk cows, 5,973; bulls, 573; fat cattle, 2,329.

Horses—Yearling colts, 464; two-year-old colts, 428; three-year-old



THRESHING

colts, 399; work horses, 5,194; range horses, 118; ponies and plugs, 1,480; stallions, 19; mules, 1,068.

Hogs—All ages and weights, 25,879.

Sheep and Goats—1,997.

Stands of Honey Bees—435.

Poultry—Dozens on hand, 11,791; dogs owned, 1,317; automobiles, 2,062.

Bushels of wheat, 6,590; bushels of corn, 360,315; oats, 120,665; potatoes, 816 bushels; alfalfa hay, 5,718 tons.

Total actual value in county, \$9,266,275.

Assessed value of all property in county, \$1,853,255.

REGISTERED FARM NAMES

About 1910 the Legislature of Nebraska enacted a law ordering the county clerks of the state to keep in their offices a record book in which, for a small fee, any land-owner in the county might select a name for their farm, providing it was not already selected by another within the county—no two farms in a county to have the same name. In this county the following have taken advantage of this wise provision:

July 1, 1911, the first farm name was recorded in Washington County—that of S. W. Stewart in Lincoln Township, in section 13, township 18, range 10, the same to be styled "Cloverdale Farm."

"Pleasant Dale Stock Farm," September 11, 1911, in De Soto Township, in section 20, township 29, range 18, by W. D. Hughes.

"Green Valley Stock Farm," November 13, 1911, by A. D. Reeh & Sons, in the north half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 13, township 18, range 10.

"Pine Valley Farm," by Henry Rohwer, in Calhoun Township, section 5, township 17, range 12, on December 21, 1911.

"Oak Hill Farm," December 28, 1912, by J. A. Dowden, in section 24, township 18, range 11.

"Woodlawn Farm," by Leslie E. Cooper, March 20, 1914, in Arlington Township, section 25, township 17, range 10.

"Hillcrest," by R. A. Davies, April 22, 1914, in Arlington Township, section 18, township 17, range 10.

"The Oaks," by J. A. Dixon, in section 18, township 17, range 10.

"Pleasant View Farm," May 2, 1914, by C. L. Husk, in section 16, township 19, range 11.

"Golden Gate," in Arlington Township, in section 20, township 17, range 10, by Cortez U. Cook.

"Walnut Grove Farm," June 5, 1915, by Peter Peterson, in Richland Township, in sections 24, 25 and 26, of township 17, range 11.

"Fairview Farm," by Jens Christensen, in Blair Township, in section 28, township 18, range 11, September 18, 1915.

"Valley View Farm," in Blair Township, by Jens L. Petersen, in section 10, township 18, range 11, August 31, 1915.

"Plain View Farm," April 9, 1918, by John M. Compton, in section 27, township 19, range 11.

"College View Farm," by Nels Nelson, section 22, township 11, range 18.

THE GRANGE MOVEMENT

The Grange or Patrons of Husbandry Order which spread from coast to coast in the '70s and '80s, and was the greatest order ever yet supported by the thrifty farmers of the United States. In Washington County this order was organized in the autumn of 1873, when Washington Grange No. 130 was formed at or near Fontanelle, and so rapid was its progress that in the spring of 1877 there were seventeen granges in the county, with an average membership of thirty, making a total of 500 members in the county, of which 400 were voters and 100 ladies and young men. In 1874 the largest Fourth of July celebration ever held in the county was under the auspices of the Patrons of Husbandry. It was held at the head of New York Creek.

Many farmers were benefited for years by their membership and interest taken in the work of the organization. Finally, other methods developed among farmers, co-operative stores and grain elevators obtained in the country until at present the Patrons of Husbandry are seldom spoken of. The present system of farmers uniting and owning their own joint stock stores and grain warehouses and stock yards, by which they believe they get higher prices for produce, as well as purchase at a much less rate such articles as they need in their homes and on the farm. Fremont, Scribner and other places in Dodge County do an extensive business in this way. Washington County also has its co-operative unions and handle much grain and livestock in this same manner.

CHAPTER VI

THE ATTORNEYS OF THE COUNTY

In all parts of the civilized world the legal profession is in constant demand—especially is this so of later years, when great state, interstate and international questions must be solved. New laws governing our own, as well as foreign people coming to our shores, have to be enacted and executed under our constitutions—state and national—and this is largely the work and duty of a well-read and practical expounder of the law. It is no sign because a person “goes to law” that they are mean and quarrelsome, for the rights of all citizens in this country must be respected and the law vindicated for the poor as well as for the rich. This is the business of the attorney-at-law.

There have been many lawyers in Washington County since its organization. The record they made before passing away from here has not been kept, except in the few instances where obituary notices, or removal notices have been published in local newspapers. There are but few now living within Washington County who remember the earliest lawyers who practiced when courts were held at Fort Calhoun and De Soto, before the removal of the county seat to Blair. However, the author of this work is fortunate in having the memory of Judge I. C. Eller, still a resident of Blair (and who has practiced the profession of a lawyer in this county since 1880), to prompt him in the personnel of these various members of the Washington County Bar. From an interview had with Judge Eller recently, as well as from other sources, this may be said concerning the past and present lawyers of this county:

When Judge Eller came here in 1880, he found Elias H. Clark, who had located at Fort Calhoun in 1856. He surveyed and platted the Village of Fort Calhoun and was active in all the public interests of this newly formed county. He practiced law until Blair had got to be quite a village, down at Fort Calhoun and De Soto. About 1904 he moved from Blair to Omaha; he is now deceased. The early history chapters of this work has further in regard to this man who was among, if not the first attorney within the county.

In Bell's Centennial History of Washington County he mentions the following lawyers of this county: At Fort Calhoun is named—E. H. Clark, Levi Kime, Clark Irvine, George W. Doane, W. W. Toole, E. N. Grennell and John D. Howe; also United States Senator A. S. Paddock, who was admitted to the bar while a resident of Fort Calhoun.

At De Soto was listed P. C. Sullivan, Charles D. Davis, Thomas P. Kennard, Roger T. Beal, Jesse T. Davis, John Carrington and W. W. Foote.

Levi Kime, noted above, was a partner of E. H. Clark at Fort Calhoun back in territorial days in Nebraska.

George W. Doane settled at Fort Calhoun late in the '50s, established his law practice and was very successful. Late in the '60s he moved to Omaha and was often elected as judge of the Third Judicial District and resided at Omaha.

Eleazer Wakeley established his residence in De Soto in 1857-58 and when the county seat was moved he followed it and practiced law. He was from Wisconsin and was appointed a supreme judge for the

Territory of Nebraska, under James Buchanan. He moved to Omaha, practiced law there and was elected judge of the District Court. He was the father of Judge Arthur C. Wakeley, present judge.

Roger T. Beal came with the elder Wakeley to this county as his clerk, and remained until about 1869, then went to Omaha, where he died in the early '70s. During Beal's practice in this county, he associated himself with Edwin A. Allen in the practice of law at De Soto. He dealt in real estate and especially in tax-title lands, in which he made much money.

Edwin A. Allen, a bachelor, was appointed as receiver of the land office in Western Nebraska and died a few years ago; once an attorney here.

Another very early lawyer in Washington County was Hon. Thomas P. Kennard who established a law business at De Soto in the '50s and remained till Nebraska was admitted to the Union, when he was elected secretary of state. He died in the spring of 1920.

Jesse T. Davis settled at De Soto about 1856. He studied law and was admitted to practice in this county. He became county judge and held other county positions. When the county seat was moved to Blair he went there and practiced until he removed to Washington or Oregon, where he died about 1900. He was an able man and enjoyed a good law practice.

In the early days of the county, Gen. John S. Bowen of Philadelphia settled between Arlington and Kennard. When the railroad was built through the county it went directly through his farm. He farmed and attended to his law practice; he was an able lawyer and well liked by the community in which he located. He was later employed by the railroad company and moved to Blair, served as county judge of this county and had a large law practice until about 1880, when the Sioux City Railroad Company and its successors employed him as their land agent to handle their real estate in Washington County. This position he held until death, about June, 1889.

John Carrigan settled at De Soto late in the '60s. He was a returned Civil war soldier and he died in 1880. He was a great criminal lawyer.

Martin Ballard, father of the present county attorney, Grace Ballard, practiced law in Blair till 1885, when he moved to Chadron, Nebraska, where he died. He was associated in Blair with Wellington C. Walton, who came here about the time Blair was laid out. Walton was admitted to the bar about that date. He came here from Michigan and built up a large law practice in Blair, where he remained until 1917, when he died. He was also judge of the District Court at one time here. His daughter, Mrs. Farnham, still resides in Blair.

Luther Washington Osborn, a native of New York State, settled in Blair about the year of its organization, and became a partner of John Carrigan in law until Mr. Carrigan died in 1880, after which he had numerous partners. One of his associates was William H. Farnsworth, who read law under Mr. Osborn and practiced law until 1890; he moved from Blair to Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Osborn enjoyed a lucrative law practice many years in this county. He was appointed by President William McKinley as Consul-General to the Samoan Islands, where he died and was brought to Blair for burial. He was a brilliant man, honored his profession and had legions of friends.

Potter C. Sullivan laid out the old Village of De Soto in the early '50s and practiced law there a number of years successfully.

Judge Edward C. Jackson was elected county clerk about 1875 for a four-year term. He was a partner with William H. Eller about 1879,

continued until 1881. Judge Jackson was appointed clerk of the District Court and served till elected county treasurer, then for eight years was county judge of Washington County. He practiced law for a time with Colonel Osborn. In 1911 he was appointed clerk of the District Court and then elected to the same office and is still serving.

William H. Eller read law under Carrigan & Osborn; was admitted to the bar in 1878, continuing until 1892, when his health failed and he moved to South Carolina and became a Baptist minister there. At one time he owned a Keeley institute or "cure" for drunkenness, but later sold out at an advance of the amount invested in the concern.

Judge I. C. Eller, brother of William H. Eller, just mentioned, came from Iowa in 1880 and read law with his brother and was admitted at Tekamah, Nebraska, in the autumn of 1882. He at once commenced the practice of law. He was clerk of the District Court for eleven years; served as county judge eight years and engaged in realty and title specialty cases. (See his biographical sketch elsewhere.)

Ed T. Farnsworth read law under Colonel Osborn and in 1882 was admitted to the bar and practiced until 1888 in this county and then moved to Douglas County, where he still practices law.

John Lothrop, of Michigan, came to this county in 1880 from South Dakota and has practiced law in Blair ever since.

David Z. Mummert came in from Illinois, read law under Judge Walton and was admitted to the bar about 1887—or 1888; he still practices and makes tax-titles his specialty.

Clark O'Hanlon, a Washington County boy, born in 1869, read law under Colonel Osborn at Blair and was admitted to practice early in the '90s; at one time he was a partner of Colonel Osborn. He has held many important positions in this county; attorney several terms; county judge from 1908 to 1911. He is now associated with his son, Reed O'Hanlon and William J. Maher, as the firm of O'Hanlon, Maher & O'Hanlon. The elder O'Hanlon is counsel for the Commonwealth Life Insurance Company of Omaha, where one-half of his time is spent.

Henry Mencke is a native of Washington County, Nebraska, born in the '70s and reared in Blair. He graduated from the Blair High School. His father was sheriff of Washington County many years, and under him he received his first instructions in public office. He read law under Judge Walton and was admitted to the bar about 1902.

Edmund Burke Carrigan, son of John Burke Carrigan, read law with Judge Walton and was admitted to the practice of law at Blair. He continued in law until 1918, when he was elected county judge, which position he still holds.

Perry Selden was admitted to the bar about 1882. Most of his life was devoted to newspaper work. He was with the Blair Pilot as editor and proprietor; was county judge in the early '80s and mayor of Blair several terms. He died about 1896.

William S. Cook, of Arlington, has a fine farm and resides there most of his time. He read law and was admitted to the bar and is still in the practice, at Arlington, but resides on his farm. His son, J. C. Cook, is present county attorney of Dodge County and very successful in his practice of criminal cases.

Another lawyer of this county who should not be overlooked was Alonzo Perkins, who first practiced at Fort Calhoun, then in Fontanelle, after which he moved to Blair; was elected county judge in 1878, served ten years; was admitted to the bar at Blair, practiced in Herman and Blair; was mayor of Blair in the '80s and died in Portland, Oregon, in 1919, aged ninety-three years.

PRESENT PRACTICING ATTORNEYS

In the autumn of 1920 the following attorneys were resident lawyers of Washington County:

Grace Ballard (county attorney), E. B. Carrigan, W. S. Cook, A. C. Debel, I. C. Eller, E. C. Jackson, John Lothrop, William J. Maher, Henry Mencke, D. Mummert, Clark O'Hanlon and Reed O'Hanlon.

CHAPTER VII

PHYSICIANS OF THE COUNTY

CONCERNING THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE—ITS ADVANCEMENT—SURGERY—OLD-TIME PHYSICIANS—SADDLE-BAGS—LONG DRIVES—THE MEDICINE CHESTS—LIST OF PHYSICIANS—THE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—PRESENT PHYSICIANS—THE HOSPITAL.

No community is ever exempt from the need of a "family doctor." In all ages of the world's history there has been need of physicians to heal the sick. The Science of Medicine is among the greatest and most useful of all the professions. When in full health we are sometimes heard to speak lightly of the physician, but when the sick chamber encloses us—when the hand of death is reaching out towards our form, it is then that we seek aid from the best doctor known in the community. The science and understanding of medicine have greatly advanced for the better within the memory of many now living. Especially in surgery the strides have been wonderful in the last forty years. There are numerous "schools of medicine," but each and all have their friends and their merits. In the early days in Washington County, Nebraska, the allopathic school of medicine was almost universally used, with now and then an herb doctor. A little later, several homeopathic physicians settled in the county and built up a good practice. Today the number of schools of practice has come to be many, but still by a large majority the standard is the allopathic physician.

Physicians, as a rule, are all too busy to leave any record of their practice, even no data as to when they located in a given place. It is to be regretted that we have not a personal paragraph on every doctor who has ever practiced within this county, but such is the case. The earliest physicians of the county have long since ceased to practice and nearly all of the pioneer doctors are deceased.

Among the early physicians of the county are recalled the names of Drs. J. P. Andrew, William Moore and Charles Lawrence, all of whom practiced medicine at Fort Calhoun prior to 1876.

Up to the last-named date, at De Soto were Doctors Cutts, McLaughlin, John Glover, Doctor Cannon, Charles Emerson Tennent, F. H. Longley and S. H. Fawcett.

From bits of information gleaned from the records of the Washington County Medical Society, now in the hands of Dr. G. A. Langstaff, of Blair, and from other reliable sources, the writer has compiled the following imperfect list of the physicians who have at some time or other practiced medicine within Washington County. The mere mention of their names will bring to mind some recollection of the good doctor who used to travel, perchance by horseback, with his saddle-bags thrown over his horse's back. Another will recall a dreary night-drive with the pioneer doctor, against a severe wintry wind, to some distant part of the county. Some middle-aged man or woman will recall when a child the face of another doctor who frequently visited at their place in the '60s or '70s, driving in an old weather-beaten buggy, carrying with him a medicine chest filled with remedies that were strong and unpleasant to the taste, and were not mixed in tablet form as today, but had to be

administered, because that was as far as medical science had gone at that date. Another scene may pass before your vision. You may remember that night when a dear mother or father was not expected to live from hour to hour, and you recall how after hours of patient waiting and prescribing for the sick one, the doctor looked up and assured the family that the worst was over and that the ill one would recover. The physicians have been no better nor worse in this county than in any other. It should be said that most all of these doctors were honorable persons and did the best they knew how.

Without much attention being paid as to the dates the doctors of this county commenced or quit their medical practice, the long list of physicians known to have been here a greater or less period have been as follows:

Doctor Langley, Doctor Post (a druggist), Doctor O'Linn died in 1880 in Blair, Dr. W. H. Palmer, of Blair, still surviving but not in active practice, and is the only one of the older physicians of the county now living.

Dr. Samuel B. Taylor, Dr. Byron F. Monroe (homeopathic), Dr. Parris G. Cooper of Cuming City, Silas H. Fawcett moved from De Soto to Blair where he practiced; Dr. Samuel G. Glover, Arlington; Doctor Hadley, Dr. J. P. Andrew, at Fort Calhoun in an early day, and was the father-in-law of pioneer lawyer E. H. Clark; Doctor Love of Herman practiced there before the '80s.

The names of other physicians of Washington County will appear in the following account of the County Medical Society—see below:

WASHINGTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

This society was organized January 20, 1903, at Dr. M. D. Bedal's office in the City of Blair. Those present at the first meeting were Doctor Bedal, Doctor McDonald of Fremont, Dr. H. Noble of Blair, Dr. W. H. Palmer, Dr. E. R. Stewart of Blair, Dr. J. F. Curtis of Fort Calhoun, Dr. P. J. Clark of Herman, Dr. G. A. Langstaff of Blair.

The first president of the society was Dr. M. D. Bedal; secretary, Dr. G. A. Langstaff, who has served most of the years since the society was formed; Dr. W. H. Palmer, vice-president; Dr. P. J. Clark, treasurer; Dr. E. R. Stewart, delegate. The censors were Dr. J. F. Curtis, Dr. W. H. Pruner and Dr. C. O. Robinson. In 1911 the total membership was eleven and today it is only nine.

The present (1920) officers are: Dr. L. J. Kilian, president; Dr. E. R. Stewart, vice-president; Dr. G. A. Langstaff, secretary; Dr. James B. Anderson, delegate. Board of censors—Drs. A. J. Cameron, E. R. Stewart and J. V. Hinchman.

The society meets the first Tuesday of each month at Blair. Every physician in the county is a member of this society save one, and he is not really eligible.

In the spring of 1920 the membership included the following physicians: Drs. R. J. Murdoch, G. A. Langstaff, E. R. Stewart, L. J. Kilian, J. V. Hinchman (all practicing at Blair at present), A. J. Anderson, Kennard, E. S. B. Geessaman, Fort Calhoun, A. J. Cameron, Herman. Others are Drs. Marie Anna Nielsen, William H. Pruner, Kennard (now deceased), Somers Pettingill, Fort Calhoun, later of California; Marshall B. Bedal, Charles O. Robinson of Blair, recently removed from county; P. G. Grimm, at Blair five years, was only an honorary member of the society. L. L. Burnstein, now in California, practiced in the

county six years; A. W. Fees (homeopathic) was formerly a member, but not at this time; W. G. Orr, for a short time only; Dr. Marian Orr Wilson, Dr. W. R. Wagner, Blair.

The oldest doctor in years of practice in the county at this date is Dr. J. V. Hinchman. Dr. H. Noble died at Blair and Doctor Bedal died after removing from this county. Doctor Robinson is gone.

THE CITY HOSPITAL

A few years since the old two-story brick school building in the central part of the city was purchased and converted into a private hospital. Different ones had charge until 1917, when it passed into the hands of Mrs. F. A. Washburn, who continues to conduct it. While it is not large, it does supply the demand for any ordinary hospital cases. Local physicians may take patients there and operate on them, in most cases as well as though they were operated on in Omaha.

CHAPTER VIII

BANKING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

EARLY BANKS IN NEBRASKA—FIRST BANKING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—PLATEAU STATE BANK—THE HERMAN STATE BANK—WASHINGTON STATE BANK—FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK, KENNARD—HOME STATE BANK—ARLINGTON STATE BANK—FIRST NATIONAL BANK—WASHINGTON COUNTY BANK—CITIZENS STATE BANK—FORT CALHOUN STATE BANK—STATE BANK, BLAIR—FARMERS STATE BANK, BLAIR—BANK SUMMARY.

The early banks in Nebraska were established by specific acts of the Legislature, naming the incorporate powers, capital and place of business. June, 1856, the Legislature chartered the Platte Valley Bank of Nebraska City, the Fontanelle Bank of Bellevue, the Bank of Florence, the Bank of Nebraska at Omaha and the Nemaha Valley Bank at Brownsville. There was great hostility, even here in the wilds of frontier Nebraska, against "wild-cat banks" and foremost among the men who fought them hard was the late Hon. J. Sterling Morton.

The first general regulatory banking law was that approved March 29, 1889. An act approved April 8, 1895, created a banking board composed of the state auditor, state treasurer and attorney-general. This act provided for the chartering of all banks operating under state law by the banking board. A general banking law approved March 25, 1909, repealed the existing laws and provided for the banking board to consist of the governor, as chairman, the auditor and attorney-general.

The first State Bankers' Convention of Nebraska assembled at Omaha January 22, 1890. The complete organization, however, was not effected until 1900, so far as the present group system obtains.

FIRST BANK IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

"The Banking House of A. Castetter" at Blair, a private bank owned by A. Castetter, was incorporated in 1898, but had been doing business as a private concern since 1869. When incorporated its first president was A. Castetter, its manager was F. M. Castetter and F. H. Claridge, cashier. The present officers are: F. H. Claridge, president; Mary J. Cook and Clarkson Haller, assistant cashiers.

At first the capital was \$60,000, but its present capital is \$100,000. It also now carries a surplus of \$32,000, with resources and liabilities amounting to \$1,240,000. Its recent deposits are \$970,000.

This concern is located in a brick bank building erected in 1877 and now valued at \$8,000, besides fixtures, etc., amounting to \$6,000 more. It has been stated by some that this was the earliest bank in Washington County, but its own officers do not so affirm, but say the earliest attempt at banking in this county was at De Soto in 1858, when the "Waubeek Bank of De Soto" was established. About that date the same village had two other banks (so-called)—the Bank of De Soto and Corn Exchange Bank—but all three were short lived, the Waubeek lasting longer than the other two mentioned. Nothing definite is now to be had of the founders and final outcome of their pioneer projects. De Soto

went down eventually and all early history, if ever recorded, went down too! But to keep history straight it should be understood that the Wau-beek Bank at De Soto was Bank No. 1 of Washington County and the next and first to become a permanent fixture in the county was the banking house of A. Castetter, established in 1869 at Blair.

THE PLATEAU STATE BANK

This bank is situated at the Village of Herman and was established in 1888 by G. C. Latta, president, and W. H. Clark, cashier.

The 1920 officers are: G. C. Latta, president; E. W. Burdic, vice-president; Earl C. Burdic, cashier; George W. Stangel, assistant cashier; La Verne Lowe, assistant cashier.

This bank at first had a capital of \$20,000, which has been increased to \$50,000, with a surplus of \$10,000. Its recent deposits amounted to \$600,000.

The statement issued by this bank May 15, 1920, shows resources and liabilities amounting to \$762,388.70. At that date its deposits were \$593,457.78 and its undivided profits were \$24,325.71. Amount of cash on hand was then \$80,611.31.

THE HERMAN STATE BANK

This bank was established at Herman in September, 1907, and its first officers were: E. P. Hanson, president; Charles Nelson, vice-president, and Charles Bott, second vice-president. The same officers still serve in their respective capacities and to the list should be added Fred Robertson, cashier, and assistant cashier, T. R. Swanson.

The original capital was \$15,000, which is now \$30,000, with a surplus of \$2,000. Its recent deposits were \$257,000.

This bank owns its own building erected of Bedford stone in 1919 at a cost of \$18,000.

On September 2, 1916, at noon, an attempt was made to hold up this bank. The bank's officers armed themselves and with the assistance of the county sheriff the robbers were arrested and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary at Lincoln.

WASHINGTON STATE BANK

The Washington State Bank at the Village of Washington was established April 5, 1904. Its first officers were: H. B. Waldron, president; Henry Simonson, vice-president; W. T. Waldron, cashier.

The officers of today (1920) are as follows: Jabe B. Gibson, president; George T. Hedelund, cashier, and H. E. Lyons, director.

This bank was established on a capital of \$10,000, which has increased to \$15,000, with a surplus of \$3,000. Its recent deposits amounted to \$190,000.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK—KENNARD

This bank was established April 16, 1898, by officers as follows: Magnus Johnson, president; John Japp, vice-president; W. H. Harrison, cashier.

The 1920 officers are: Magnus Johnson, president; C. A. Schmidt, vice-president; G. E. Krongberg, cashier; F. W. Vybiral, assistant cashier.

The original capital was \$10,000; present capital is \$30,000, and a surplus is carried of \$7,000.

Recent reports show deposits to the amount of \$290,000. The resources and liabilities are now \$412,000.

In 1911 a red brick building was erected as the home for this bank. Its value is more than \$6,000.

In 1904 in the old building this bank lost \$3,000 by yeggmen blowing open the safe.

HOME STATE BANK

This banking house is situated at the Town of Kennard, and was organized in 1915 by John Blaco, J. C. Neal, A. L. Cook and others. The first officers were: John Blaco, president; William Jahnel, vice-president; J. C. Neal, cashier, who died in the spring of 1917.

The present or 1920 officers are: William Jahnel, president; J. F. McCann, vice-president; M. T. Cederlind, cashier.

The first and present capital is \$15,000; present surplus, \$2,500; resources and liabilities amount to \$140,000.

In the spring of 1915 a brick bank building was constructed and is valued at about \$6,000.

The deposits in this bank in the month of June, 1920, were \$100,000.

ARLINGTON STATE BANK

The Arlington State Bank whose charter number is 12, was organized in the month of April, 1890, by T. E. Stevens, president; H. Chapman, vice-president; H. W. Schoettger, cashier.

The present officers are: C. C. Marshall, president; H. W. Schoettger, vice-president; R. E. Planck, cashier; L. E. Peterson, assistant cashier.

This bank started on a capital of \$25,000 but now has \$30,000, with a surplus of \$30,000.

Its reports show recent deposits amounting to \$542,416.15 and resources and liabilities amounting to \$671,732.29.

In June, 1891, a brick bank building was finished and is valued at \$6,000.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK—ARLINGTON

This bank was established May 26, 1891, with officers as follows: George H. Jewett, president; J. T. May, vice-president; Otis M. Dye, cashier.

The present officials are: J. T. May, president; Fred De Weber, vice-president; G. I. Pfeiffer, cashier; F. W. Pfeiffer, assistant cashier.

This bank started on a \$50,000 capital but reduced to \$25,000, with a surplus of \$6,000. Its resources and liabilities are \$250,000 and recent deposits were \$200,000.

A fine bank building was erected in 1913 and is valued at \$5,000. This bank succeeded to the old Bell Creek Valley Bank, a private bank, at Arlington when the town was known as Bell Creek. It was the first bank of this vicinity.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BANK—FORT CALHOUN

This bank was established in 1889 on a capital of \$5,000, but today it has \$30,000, with a surplus of \$6,000. Its recent reports show deposits to the amount of \$250,000.

This bank was established or started by Henry Rix. The present officers are as follows: Henry Rix, president; Ernest Rix, cashier; May Rix, vice-president.

In 1905 a \$20,000 brick bank building was constructed for this concern in which a general banking business is transacted after a modern method.

THE CITIZENS STATE BANK—BLAIR

The Citizens State Bank at the City of Blair was organized May 18, 1904, by F. H. Matthiesen and D. Z. Mummert.

The first officers of this banking house were: F. H. Matthiesen, president; M. Matthiesen, vice-president; D. Z. Mummert, cashier.

The present (1920) officers are: A. R. Brock, president; George Bruse, cashier; E. R. Brock, assistant cashier.

The capital at first was the same as today—\$50,000. It now has a surplus of \$10,000. Recent reports show deposits amounting to \$504,178.47.

The present resources and liabilities are \$579,812.38.

In conjunction with this bank is also the Citizens Savings Bank, whose charter is numbered 989; has a capital of \$12,500; surplus of \$2,500.

The combined statement of these two banks shows resources and liabilities amounting to \$836,128.79. Their combined loans amount to \$571,601.10; they carry \$35,000 in Liberty Bonds and have cash and sight exchange to the amount of \$202,174.71. Total deposits in the combined concerns is \$728,389.75.

FORT CALHOUN STATE BANK

This bank was organized at the Village of Fort Calhoun, December 14, 1914. The first officers were Henry Rohwer, president; William P. Cook, cashier. The same persons hold the same positions today.

The first capital was same as today—\$20,000, but now they have a surplus of \$4,000. Recent reports show this bank to have deposits in the sum of \$225,000.

The present resources and liabilities are \$287,496.31.

The loans and discounts amount to \$176,288.50.

One special feature in this bank is the fact that they are carrying undivided profits amounting to \$40,644.50.

This bank moved into the new brick building they had erected on December 14, 1914. The building and fixtures are valued at about \$7,800.

THE STATE BANK—BLAIR

The State Bank at Blair is the successor of the old Blair National Bank, and was organized January 3, 1916, with officers as follows: C. A. Schmidt, T. E. Stevens, Thomas Finnell, A. C. Roberts and C. J. Schmidt.

This bank carries the same stock as when organized—\$50,000, but to this they have the use of \$50,000 more in surplus and undivided profits, which makes them a financially strong concern. Their resources and liabilities amount to \$1,219,962.61. Recent deposits are \$980,635.72.

A most excellent brick bank building is owned by this company; its value is about \$11,000.

The present (1920) officers are as follows: C. A. Schmidt, president; T. E. Stevens, vice president; A. C. Roberts, director; C. J. Schmidt, director; Thomas Finnell, cashier; C. J. Schmidt and D. J. Hundahl, assistant cashiers.

FARMERS STATE BANK—BLAIR

The Farmers State Bank at the City of Blair was organized September 27, 1919, with first officers as follows: John H. Gibson, president; E. B. Redfield, vice-president; W. F. Gutschow, assistant cashier.

The same set of officials are still holding their respective positions.

The original and present capital stock is \$35,000. The surplus and undivided profits amount to \$10,716.13.

The present resources and liabilities amount to \$153,848.42.

The deposits in July, 1920, were \$97,221.28, but one month earlier the bank had deposits amounting to \$108,382.11.

This bank has the confidence of the entire community in which it operates and stands high in banking circles of Nebraska.

COUNTY SUMMARY OF BANKS

The following is a summary of all banks in Washington County, Nebraska, showing the name, date of organizing, present capital and surplus; also present (recent) amount in deposits.

		Date	Capital	Surplus	Deposits
The Banking House of A. Castetter,					
Blair	1869	\$100,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 970,000	
The Plateau State Bank, Herman	1888	50,000	10,000	660,000	
The Herman State Bank, Herman	1907	30,000	2,000	257,000	
Washington State Bank, Washington					
Village	1904	15,000	3,000	190,000	
Farmers & Merchants Bank, Kennard	1898	30,000	7,000	290,000	
Home State Bank, Kennard	1915	15,000	2,500	140,000	
Arlington State Bank, Arlington	1890	30,000	30,000	542,416	
First National Bank, Arlington	1891	25,000	6,000	200,000	
Washington County Bank, Fort Cal-					
hour	1889	30,000	6,000	250,000	
Citizens State Bank, Blair	1904	50,000	10,000	504,178	
Fort Calhoun State Bank, Fort Cal-					
houn	1914	20,000	4,000	225,000	
The State Bank, Blair	1916	50,000	50,000	980,635	
Farmers State Bank, Blair	1919	35,000	10,716	97,221	
Totals		\$480,000	\$172,716	\$5,306,450	

CHAPTER IX

WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

NEWSPAPERS OF BLAIR—THE REGISTER—WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT (DEFUNCT)—THE PILOT—THE ENTERPRISE—THE TRIBUNE—THE TIMES—THE COURIER—KENNARD WEEKLY NEWS—HERMAN RECORD—THE CALHOUN CHRONICLE—THE COUNTY'S EARLIEST NEWSPAPERS—THE DE SOTO BUGLE—DE SOTO PILOT—THE SUN—ENQUIRER—REGISTER—NEBRASKA PIONEER—CUMING STAR.

NEWSPAPERS OF BLAIR

From what seems to be reliable sources it is believed that the first newspaper in Blair was the Register, established in May, 1869, by Hilton & Son. January 1, 1870, L. F. Hilton, junior member of the firm, became editor and proprietor, publishing the paper until the following spring, having an actual circulation of 1,200 paying subscribers in Washington, Burt and Douglas counties. At this time the publication was suspended and the material sold under foreclosure of mortgage.

The next paper established in Blair was the Republican, started in June or July, 1870, as the Blair Times, by a stock company consisting of W. H. B. Stout and other citizens of Blair. Its first editor was J. C. Lillie. Gen. John S. Bowen succeeded Lillie as editor and edited a most excellent paper. After numerous changes in proprietorship the property passed into the hands of C. B. Sprague in August, 1880, he succeeding Vic Lantry and others. Sprague changed the name from Times to Republican, also changed it to a republican organ. In 1904 it was purchased by Theo. T. Osterman and changed to a democratic paper and called the Democrat; it was merged with the Courier in 1907, and absorbed the Tribune in 1917 and the name "Democrat" dropped. The Tribune was founded by W. R. Williams in 1907 and has been in the hands of the present owner, Thomas T. Osterman, since 1917.

Then the Tribune derives its ancestry from the old Times, established in 1870. Politically, it is democratic. Subscription rate \$2 in advance. It circulates mostly in Washington County; is a six-column, eight to twenty-page all home print paper. It is published every Thursday. The office from which it issues is equipped with a linotype, drum cylinder press, folder, gordon jobber, etc.

The building is owned by Thomas T. Osterman, and it is a frame structure.

THE BLAIR PILOT

It is believed generally by the newspaper craft of Washington County that the first newspaper published in this county was the one known as the Register, just prior to the Pilot of today. It appears that what is now known as the Pilot was established at Tekamah, Burt County, in 1871, by J. Y. Lambert, but it was removed by him to Blair in 1874. In 1875 George Sutherland purchased it and L. F. Hilton became its editor. In 1879 Mr. Sutherland sold to B. F. Hilton, and son, L. F. Hilton. Finally it became the property of the Pilot Printing

Company, with L. A. Williams as its editor. The present owner, Don C. Van Deusen, purchased the paper July 1, 1907. This was at one time a progressive republican journal, but at present does not advertise its politics, but is supposedly "independent."

The Pilot circulates mostly in Washington County; is printed each week on Wednesday and its subscription rate is \$2 per year in advance.

It is well equipped as a modern printing office, with a modern linotype, propelled by an electric motor; a Standard Babcock six-column quarto cylinder press, purchased in the summer of 1919. It also has a folding machine, two jobbers, a paper cutter, a stapler, and everything found in offices in places the size of Blair at this date.

Mr. Van Deusen, proprietor, owns the brick building in which his plant is kept; it is a good brick structure.

THE WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT—DEFUNCT

This newspaper was established by Blue and Sampson, September 22, 1881, in Blair, but November 28, that year, it was moved to Bell Creek (now Arlington), where after a five-months struggle it ceased to exist. Politically, this was a democratic organ, but in those times democrats were not very numerous in Washington County!

THE BLAIR ENTERPRISE

This newspaper was established at Kennard in 1896 by E. L. Tiffany, of Kennard, who sold in 1913 to L. F. Hilton, of Kennard, who moved into Blair in August, 1913. Politically, it is an independent republican journal with a circulation in Washington County, mostly. In form and size it is of the eight-page six-column size. It is published each Thursday (originally on Friday). Its yearly subscription rate is \$1.50 in advance.

This office is equipped with up-to-date machinery, including a linotype, job presses, paper press, paper cutter, imposing stones and proof press. Local news, of course is the main object of newspapers in this sized towns and cities. This paper a few years ago, published portions of Bell's History of Washington County, written in 1876, and from its columns, containing such historical items, the publishers of this later history are greatly indebted.

THE BLAIR COURIER

The Courier was established at Blair the summer of 1889, Vol. 1, No. 18 bears date November 2 of that year. It was established by the Blair Publishing Company with W. H. Eller, associate editor, S. L. Hamilton, secretary and B. C. Maynard, manager. It was a six-column folio, and politically, it was democratic. It was a well edited paper and had an excellent circulation. It was merged in 1907 with the Democrat.

THE KENNARD WEEKLY NEWS

This enterprising local newspaper was established at the Village of Kennard, June 14, 1916, and is an independent local journal with no special political trend. The paper was started by its present owner and editor, Otto F. Olsen. It is an eight-page, six-column paper and circulates within a radius of about six miles of Kennard. Its sub-

scription rate is \$1.50 per year in advance. Its publication day is Wednesday of each week.

The equipment of the News office consists of modern appliances including one 10 by 15 Chandler & Price jobber; one Diamond cylinder news press and one 13-horsepower Mogul kerosine engine, with such other fixtures as make up a modern printing office.

The News aims to give the local happenings within the radius of its circulation and to have the same in readable shape such as will be interesting and instructive to the subscribers.

THE HERMAN RECORD

The Herman Record was established October 14, 1908, and among its publishers and owners have been: F. L. Fassett, Paul E. Hubbell, and present owner, H. L. Swan.

It is non-political; circulates in Washington County mostly; is an eight-page, six-column paper with six pages home print. It is published every Thursday at \$1.50 per year in advance.

This newspaper is published in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 in Plateau Bank Building. Its outfit includes a good cylinder press, two jobbers and a modern linotype.

The Record is a well edited and neatly printed paper and is duly appreciated by the large list of well satisfied patrons who find all the news of the community each week.

DANISH LUTHERAN PUBLISHING HOUSE PAPERS

The Danish Lutheran Publishing House at Blair publish and print the following publications that go broadcast all over the United States and Canada:

Danish Lutheran Kirkeblad is now 50 years old—published in Blair for 30 years.

The Danskeren (a newspaper) was published in Wisconsin until 1899 since which it has been published in Blair, Nebraska. Since 1903 its editor has been Rev. A. M. Andersen. Subscription rate is \$2 a year. Our Lutheran Youth—(for young people) a semi-monthly is now 15 years old.

Bornebladet is now in its thirty-first year of publication. This is a Danish Sunday school paper.

The Little Lutheran—(a Sunday School in English) in its eighth year of publication.

Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Blair, Nebraska, are the only two points in America where church papers are published by the Danish Lutheran Church. Their mailing list is immense—their postage bills are more than \$800 per year, all told.

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S FIRST NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper published in Washington County, Nebraska, was the De Soto Bugle, established in 1856 at the little pioneer Village of De Soto, by Hon. Isaac Parrish, who in a speech over in Harrison County in 1859 declared that there would be railroads over the Rocky Mountains to the far off Pacific Coast within a score of years. The people called him "daffy," but it was only half that length of time before the Union Pacific Railroad was completed.

The next newspaper started in this county was the De Soto Pilot, established in 1857 by Merrick and Maguire; the third paper was the Washington County Sun, established in 1858 by Potter C. Sullivan, and the fourth paper was the De Soto Enquirer, established in 1858 by Z. Jackson. No other attempt at starting a newspaper in this county was made until 1869, when the Register was established at Blair, by B. F. Hilton and son. In 1870 the publication of the Blair Times was undertaken by a company made up of a number of citizens of the county, as will be seen by reference to the history of that paper elsewhere in this chapter.

The Nebraska Pioneer, a weekly newspaper was started under the management of a Mr. Dimmick, at Cuming City in 1857, and soon was numbered among the dead enterprises of the young "city."

The Cuming City Star flashed out and made the second newspaper attempt in Cuming City, the date of its issue being 1858. It was a good weekly paper edited by L. M. Kline. This paper remained as long as there were any hopes for the town's future greatness.

THE CALHOUN CHRONICLE

Fort Calhoun's present local newspaper is the Chronicle, established about 1914 and is now conducted by its owner, Frank C. Adams. It is a six-column folio sheet, published each Thursday at a subscription rate of \$1.50 in advance. Further data concerning this publication was not furnished the historians.

CHAPTER X

POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF COUNTY

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS—SPECIAL ELECTIONS—LISTS OF SENATORS— REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE GOVERNMENT, ETC.

AT SPECIAL ELECTIONS

In 1883 at a special election the issue was on "Township organization" and it stood as follows: For "Township organization," 994; against the measure, 436.

In 1886 a special election was held on the question of voting on courthouse bonds and the result was: For bonds, 500; against bonds, 1,256.

In 1894 the question again came up before the people at a special election as to whether Washington County should be governed under the township system or not. The votes stood: For organization, 1,165; against township organization, 601.

In 1889 a special election was held in this county on the question of selling the Poor Farm. The result at that election was for sale of County Farm, 501; against sale of County Farm, 1,528.

POLITICS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Without entering into a detailed account of the various political campaigns had in Washington County since its organization, the following election statistics will show the general politics of the county and results at the presidential election, beginning with centennial year—1876:

1876—The Republican candidate, Rutherford B. Hayes, received a majority of 512 in the county.

1880—James A. Garfield, republican candidate, received a majority of 790.

1884—James G. Blaine, republican candidate, carried the county.

1888—Benjamin Harrison, republican candidate, carried this county by 331.

1892—Benjamin Harrison, republican candidate, carried the county by 340.

1896—William McKinley, republican, carried the county by a handsome majority.

1900—William McKinley, republican, again carried the county over William Jennings Bryan.

1904—Theodore Roosevelt carried county.

1908—William Howard Taft, republican, carried the county by 129.

1912—Woodrow Wilson, democratic candidate, carried the county by a safe majority.

1916—Woodrow Wilson, democratic candidate, carried the county again.

REPRESENTATION

It will be remembered that Washington was one of the original counties in Nebraska Territory, and that the first Legislature convened

in Omaha in the winter of 1854-55 and consisted of eight councilmen—four from each side of the Platte River—and thirteen representatives, Washington County sending as councilman, James G. Mitchell, and as representatives, Anselum Arnold, and A. J. Smith.

The first county officers for this county were appointed by the governor as follows: Stephen Cass, probate judge; Thomas Allen, sheriff; George W. Neville, clerk; George Martin, treasurer; Z. Jackson, registrar, and Thomas Wilson, surveyor.

Since that date the following have been elected to the positions designated: Councilmen—William Clancy, 1856; E. G. Scott, and George W. Doane, floater, 1858; John A. Unthank, 1860; E. A. Allen, and Frank Welch, of Burt, 1862; John D. Neligh, of Cuming, floater, 1866.

STATE SENATORS

Jesse T. Davis, 1866; W. F. Goodwill, of Burt, floater, 1868; B. F. Hilton, 1870; L. W. Osborn, 1872; Waldo Lyon, of Burt, floater, 1874; L. W. Osborn, 1874; George F. Blanchard, 1877; S. B. Taylor, 1881; Charles Sang, 1883; Henry Sprick, 1887; John Dern, 1889; M. J. Brown, 1891; John Thompson, 1893; S. W. Hayes, 1897; W. D. Haller, 1897-09; Fred Volpp, 1909-13; Geo. F. Wolz, Wallace H. Wilson, 1915-17.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

William Connor, Elisha P. Stout and James Stewart, 1856; P. C. Sullivan, R. H. Peterson and James S. Stewart, 1857; P. G. Cooper, L. M. Kline and Charles Davis, 1858; James S. Stewart and John S. Bowen, 1859; Giles Mead and Henry W. DePugh, 1859; E. A. Allen and John S. Bowen, 1861; L. R. Fletcher and Dean C. Slader, 1862. [By act of Congress the session of 1862-63 was dispensed with and the amount it would have cost was applied to "war purposes."] John Evans and H. J. Rohwer, 1863; H. M. Hitchcock and Nevin McCandlish, 1864; E. H. Clark and Charles Eisley, 1865; A. S. Warrick and Dr. L. J. Abbott, territorial and John A. Unthank and Dean C. Slader, state representatives, 1866; there were two sets elected on account of a State Constitution having been drafted; W. H. B. Stout and Christian Rathmann, 1868; Elam Clark and H. C. Riordan, 1870; Henry Sprick, 1872—a new apportionment having given the county but one member of the House—E. S. Gaylord, in 1874.

In July, 1866, a special session of the Legislature was held in which Frank Welch of Burt County represented Washington County as senator and William R. Hamilton, D. McDonald and Thomas R. Wilson, as representatives. Since that date the following have included the members of the House from this county:

W. R. Hamilton, 1866; Elam Clark, elected in 1871; H. C. Riordan, 1872; E. S. Gaylord, 1875-76; P. Seldon, 1877; Giles Mead, 1879; J. C. Homer, 1883; Richard Blaco, 1885; John H. Cameron and Watson Tyson, 1887; John H. Cameron, 1889; William S. Frost, 1891; William D. Haller, elected in 1893, 1895, 1899 and 1911; I. C. Eller, 1907; Henry Rohwer, 1901; W. G. Harrison, 1903; H. D. Schoettger, 1907-09; William D. Haller, 1911; H. H. Herzog, 1911; Claude C. Van Deusen, 1913; Claude C. Van Deusen, 1915; Albert H. Miller, 1917.

GOVERNORS OF NEBRASKA

The reader is referred to the Dodge County section of this work for a list of the governors of Nebraska. (See index.)

CHAPTER XI

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—LATER DEVELOPMENTS IN MATTERS OF EDUCATION—THE FORT CALHOUN SCHOOLS—THE DE SOTO SCHOOLS—FONTANELLE SCHOOLS—CUMING CITY SCHOOLS—BLAIR CITY SCHOOLS—OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY—CONDITION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1920—SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—SCHOOL BUILDINGS—TEACHERS—PUPILS—WAGES—PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS—THE COLLEGE.

The first public school taught in what is now Washington County, was probably the one taught at Fontanelle in the winter of 1855-56 by Miss Emily Strickland. It was about that date, at least in 1856, that a school was taught in the Village of Fort Calhoun, although the first public school record and warrant is dated in 1866. Early records were usually carried in "poor memories" and not in books of paper.

De Soto certainly had a public school in 1860 in a new school house, 22 by 40 feet in size, but it is known that it had several terms of school before that date.

If the Mormon settlement of 1846-47 had any schools they left no record of them.

Coming to this country as they did, the pioneer settlers carried with them, no doubt, the notions of schools they had been used to in the several states in the East and South from which they had emigrated. Hence it was no easy matter to establish the free common schools here on the start. It will also be remembered that the free school had not been tested out only about a dozen years anywhere, and some still clung to the idea of private schools at private expense. But by the close of the Civil war things had materially changed in this respect and the schoolhouses were among the things called "necessity" as they have been ever since. To begin with, rough log houses answered for schoolhouses—slabs made good enough seats and desks, while very hot and very cold schoolhouses were the common structures to attend school in.

Later the frame and, still later, the occasional brick schoolhouse, was provided in this county. Maps and charts were purchased by the school boards and now and then a globe and patent blackboard inserted. Of more recent years, the accommodation of pupils and teachers has come to obtain largely and many of the latest buildings are indeed models of schoolhouse architecture. In this connection to illustrate the point sought to be made by the writer, a minute description of one of the late schoolhouses of Washington County, standing at Cuming City, which was dedicated in 1916, is here given: (We quote from the Enterprise of that year.)

"The new rural high school in Cuming City, District No. 6, was dedicated last week with appropriate ceremonies. Dr. A. O. Thomas, state superintendent, was present and delivered the address and gave the following description of the building to us: 'This school is built after our community center plans. There are three fine rooms on the main floor and three well lighted and well ventilated basement rooms; two large rooms on the main floor are thrown together for social func-

tions of the community. The building is beautiful in design and conforms to the high standards of architecture in light, heat and ventilation. The building is situated in a beautiful grove located on the Washington Highway between Omaha and Sioux City. There is no school in the state, not even in our cities, which presents more perfect appointment and more up-to-date and satisfactory arrangement. There is a play room in the basement and laboratory for domestic science and manual training, then beside an up-to-date furnace and ventilating apparatus. The school has an enrollment of fifty pupils with two teachers carrying nine grades of work."

CONDITIONS OF SCHOOLS IN 1876

From the school records of Centennial year—1876—the following may be of interest after the flight of forty-five years:



LOG SCHOOLHOUSE

"At the present time there are within the county forty-six school districts each provided with a good house for school purposes, varying in cost from \$500 to \$15,000. These houses will compare very favorably in appearance and accommodations with the schoolhouses in many of the older states and are well supplied with maps, charts, globes—in fact, all the necessary apparatus for teaching upon the most approved modern principles. There are annually employed in the county seventy-four teachers, male and female, and the total number of children of school age is 2,323. The amount of wages paid to teachers for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1876, was \$11,627; value of all school property, \$49,970.

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE AND SCHOOL BUILDING

W. H. Woods, of Fort Calhoun, states that Bell's History of this county compiled in Centennial year, says: "A day school was opened by Miss Graham in 1856." And Benjamin Miller remembers well going to school to Miss Rhodes in 1865. But the first warrant we find recorded is marked No. 1, August 1, 1866, for \$190 to Miss Jennie Rhodes for school term beginning May 14th and ending August 6th and the same is signed by T. Bradley, clerk pro tem of the board of education. Receipts were found also for nine weeks board due to E. H. Clark for boarding teacher at \$4 a week, and washing bill amounting to \$6.40."

Bell's History also states that a courthouse of cottonwood boards was built on the present school campus, by subscription, in 1856. E. N.

Grennelle claims it was a schoolhouse, but he then lived in De Soto, and the Clarks and others who gave the money, tell us that it was a court-house, and the late Governor L. Crounse told us that when he was circuit and supreme judge in this district, he held his first term of court in Washington County, in that building. In this building Senator Paddock, who homesteaded and studied law on the old Logan Fontanelle summer camp-ground, was in that building admitted to the bar and A. P. Allen told us that when the committee from the State Bar Association asked Paddock how much his fighting weight was, the color of his hair, etc., they asked him how much money he had and when they adjourned to Allen's store where the railway track is now—west of the depot—Paddock threw a \$20 gold piece on the counter and said: "Mr. Allen, these gentlemen look weary; never mind the change."

After the new building was erected the cottonwood became a tenement house and was accidentally burned down by a pan of hot ashes. The new building was one room frame. Hans Rohwer cut the sills and hewed them with a broad axe—the pine timber was hauled from Des Moines in wagons. Through the kindness of August Schroeder, we last month gave portions of these sills to E. E. Blackman for the Historical Society, both fine and sound, this year, 1919. Hans Schwager bought the building some years ago for a barn on his farm south of town and this year tore it down to make room for a new residence by Mr. Schroeder.

BLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Blair, the seat of justice for Washington County, has always prided itself on its educational institutions, including its most excellent public schools. It was said of its schools in 1911: "Blair has long been known for the effective work of its public school system. Three school buildings, including the high school, costing \$20,000, offer advantages of a superior nature to the pupils of the locality. A most competent corps of teachers and an admirable system of management of the school work, all tend to show a higher and better work and broader results with each successive year."

As an historic fact of some interest it may be stated that the first teacher in Blair was Miss Sarah E. Kibbey, who opened the school in 1869.

FORT CALHOUN SCHOOL GROUNDS

One hundred and sixteen years ago (1804) the famous explorers, Lewis and Clark, pitched their camp on the present site of Fort Calhoun, and for a time made headquarters in this vicinity, as is shown by their reports to the government.

In the school grounds at this place is a massive granite tablet weighing many tons, erected by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, marking the spot where the great and original pathfinders made their temporary abode.

Across the campus of this same school grounds are low undulating ridges, which are all that remain of the sunken ramparts of old Fort Atkinson. This army post was built by Brevet Brigadier General Atkinson in 1819-20 and at that time the nearest supplies were brought from stations at St. Louis, Prairie Du Chien and the Pacific Coast. At that time Fort Atkinson was only about a half mile from the Missouri River, but the changing channel has now left the site of the old fort several miles inland.

Those were days of tragedy, action and romance. Calhoun as it was afterward named was the scene of many a fierce struggle, of hardships and stirring events incident to frontier life.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—1920

The subjoined are facts taken from the annual report of the county superintendent of public schools for Washington County, July, 1920:

No.		Kind of Schoolhouse	Enroll- ment	Teachers	School Year		
Dist.	Name			Male	Female	Mo.	Wks
1.	Blair City	4 brick, 1 frame	847	4	25	9	..
2.	Cruickshank	1 frame	10	..	1	9	..
3.	Fort Calhoun	1 frame	142	..	6	9	..
4.	Whitford	1 frame	26	..	1	9	..
5.	Fontanelle	1 brick	51	..	3	9	..
6.	Cuming City	1 brick-frame	53	1	1	9	..
7.	De Soto	..	..	..	..	9	..
8.	Long Creek	1 frame	24	..	1	9	..
9.	Garryown	1 frame	44	..	1	9	..
10.	Masters	1 frame	33	..	2	9	..
11.	Brinkman	2 frame	14	..	1	9	..
12.	Goll	1 frame	33	..	1	9	..
13.	Pleasant View	1 frame	34	..	2	9	..
14.	Telbasta	1 frame	33	..	1	9	..
15.	Hilgenkamp	2 frame	20	..	1	9	..
16.	Brewster	1 frame	23	1	..	9	..
17.	Hewett	1 frame	23	..	1	9	..
18.	Kindred	1 frame	13	..	1	9	..
19.	Summers	1 frame	30	..	2	9	..
20.	Sutherland	1 frame	34	..	1	9	..
21.	Thone	1 frame	11	..	1	9	..
22.	Herman	1 brick	165	..	7	9	..
23.	New England	1 frame	38	..	2	9	..
24.	Arlington	1 frame	242	..	11	9	..
25.	Wranch	1 frame	45	..	2	9	..
26.	Lecrone	1 frame	14	1	..	9	..
27.	Colby	1 frame	23	..	1	9	..
28.	Maney	1 frame	24	..	1	9	..
29.	McCarthy	1 frame	51	..	1	9	..
30.	Orum	1 frame	22	..	1	9	..
31.	March	1 frame	57	..	2	9	..
32.	Dornacker	1 frame	46	..	1	9	..
33.	Belle Center	1 frame	39	..	1	9	..
34.	Hancock	1 frame	23	..	1	9	..
35.	Rispin	1 frame	29	..	1	9	..
36.	Hill Creek	1 frame	55	..	2	9	..
37.	Lallman	1 frame	18	..	1	9	..
38.	Neff	1 frame	16	..	1	9	..
39.	Rose Hill	1 frame	47	..	2	9	..
40.	Vacoma	1 frame	11	..	1	9	..
41.	Mattes	1 frame	33	..	2	9	..
42.	Bisbee	1 frame	40	..	1	9	..
43.	Slader	1 frame	31	..	1	9	..
44.	Bono	1 frame	22	..	1	9	..

No.		Kind of Schoolhouse	Enroll- ment	Teachers	School Year
Dist.	Name			Male Female	Mo. W'ks
45.	Glendale	1 frame	24	1	9 ..
46.	Sunnyside	1 frame	21	1	8 ..
47.	Kennard	1 frame	152	5	9 ..
48.	Spiker	1 frame	22	1	9 ..
49.	Greene	1 frame	44	1	9 ..
50.	Johnson	1 frame	13	1	9 ..
51.	Hartung	1 frame	20	1	9 ..
52.	Lincoln	High school	20	1	9 ..
53.	Broderson	1 frame	30	1	9 ..
54.	Riverview	1 frame	24	1	8 3
56.	Plainview	1 frame	24	1	9 ..
57.	Peaceful Hill	1 frame	36	3	7 ..
Fr.	1 Timpe	1 frame	24	1	9 ..
Fr.	37 Washington	1 frame	40	2	9 ..
Fr.	21 Alder Grove	.....	..	..	..

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN COUNTY

In the season of 1920 the following were the parochial schools of Washington County:

St. Paul's West School, Lutheran, enrollment, forty-five.

St. Paul's East School, Lutheran, enrollment, forty.

Immanuel's, Lutheran, enrollment, forty-one.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

As near as can be learned from the records, the following persons have served as school superintendents in Washington County:

Eli Bacon, in 1857; D. McLacklin, 1858; Charles Bisbee, 1869; re-elected 1871; Charles Gross, 1873, re-elected in 1875; I. N. Jones, 1877-79; W. V. Miller, 1879-85; J. Henderson, 1885-97; G. C. Marshall, 1897-01; Alfred L. Cook, 1901-05; J. A. Rhoades, 1905-14; N. T. Lund, 1914-18; Mabel Marsh, by appointment upon resignation of Mr. Lund.

DANA COLLEGE AND TRINITY SEMINARY

This institution is under the auspices of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It was organized as a college and theological seminary. In 1899 the church convention in Minnesota decided to unite the two schools of the church, the college at Elkhorn, Iowa, and the Trinity Seminary at Blair, Nebraska. The following have served as presidents of this institution: Rev. A. M. Andersen, Rev. A. B. Christiansen, Rev. P. S. Vig, Rev. J. P. Jensen, Reverend Krbuker, C. X. Hansen, Rev. L. A. Sorensen, C. X. Hansen.

This school was originally opened in October, 1886, with Rev. A. M. Andersen as president. The first two years it was kept at the president's residence. Building operations were commenced in 1885; it was dedicated in October, 1886. The largest attendance was in the school year of 1914-15, the total number being about 200. The last year there were 140. From all departments there have graduated 265 students. The property is worth \$80,000 and a committee is now out raising funds to the amount of \$500,000. With this, the property will be greatly improved and new buildings erected.

The present (1920) officers of this corporation are as follows: C. X. Hansen, president of the faculty; Rev. P. S. Vig, president of Trinity Theological Seminary department. The board of trustees comprises the following: Rev. G. B. Christiansen, president; Rev. I. Gertsen, vice-president; Rev. M. N. Andreasen, secretary; Mr. L. Vedsted, Mr. C. D. Skow.

Connected with this institution there is also the publishing house for the whole church system in this country. It is known as the Danish Lutheran Publishing House, Rev. J. J. Keldsig, manager. This was organized in 1893. Here all publications of the church in America are published and distributed to the various districts in the country.

This college is situated in a beautiful location about a mile and one-half northwest of Blair. Originally there was a campus of four acres. Ten years ago this property was valued at \$70,000.

CHAPTER XII

SECRET SOCIETIES OF COUNTY

FREE MASONRY—ODD FELLOWSHIP—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA—DANISH BROTHERHOOD—ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN—EASTERN STAR—REBEKAH DEGREE LODGES—ETC.

In all enlightened portions of the globe today one finds numerous secret or semi-secret fraternities of both men and women, separate and in conjunction, all of which have for their one high aim the betterment of humanity and formation of true, lasting friendship, and while not all, many of such societies or lodges, as they are usually denominated, have sick benefits and life insurance connected with their charters. It should be stated, however, that there are at least three great secret orders whose history dates far back and which do not have such insurance features connected with them. We refer especially to the Masonic Order, the Odd Fellows Order and the Knights of Pythias Order, which are secret fraternities pure and simple.

The beneficiary orders, or really mutual life assurance societies, have grown to legion in number in the last score of years. The first of all such lodges was the Ancient Order of United Workmen, established at Meadsville, Pennsylvania, in about 1868, and from such lodges has grown up many others along similar lines, including Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World, Ben Hur, Eagles, Maccabees, Red Men of America, Yeomen, etc. They afford a cheap rate of life assurance, some are standing the test of time, while many others are fast sinking on account of the fees required not being sufficient to meet the death losses. The beneficiary orders that furnish members life insurance worth much are those whose charges are nearly as much as "old line" insurance costs.

FREE MASONRY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Masonry is without doubt the most ancient of all secret fraternities known to men.

The oldest Masonic Lodge in Washington County, Nebraska, is Washington Lodge, at Blair, which was first organized at Cuming City, but later removed to Blair.

MASONRY AT BLAIR

The oldest Masonic Lodge in Washington County, Nebraska was organized at Cuming City, February 25, 1868, and known as Cuming City Lodge No. 21. Its officers included: Mathew Carter, master; J. W. Hungate, senior warden; S. R. Fletcher, junior warden.

The charter members were: Nathan Carter, J. W. Fletcher, J. W. Hungate, A. T. Johns, Wm. E. Hill, James H. Thompson, Ben Newkirk, M. Cameron, W. H. Cuming.

August 5, 1869, there was a dispensation authorizing Cuming City Lodge No. 21 to change place of meeting from Cuming City to Blair,

October 27, 1869, by resolution of grand lodge the name of the lodge was changed to Washington Lodge No. 21, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

The present total membership in September, 1920, is 111.

The present elective officers are: Harry Morris, master; Fred W. Jones, senior warden; Walter Larsen, junior warden; Charles E. Gaydou, secretary; William Palmer, treasurer.

The Masonic degrees at Blair include the Blue Lodge, Washington No. 21; Adoniram Chapter No. 13; Jordan Commandery Knights Templar No. 15; McKinley Chapter, Order Eastern Star No. 161.

In 1919 the old Masonic hall of Blair was sold and ground purchased for a new Masonic hall, but owing to the high price of building material it was decided to postpone the work for some later date.

JOHN S. BOWEN LODGE NO. 232—KENNARD

The Blue Lodge of Free Masonry at the Village of Kennard was organized in 1895 and had for its charter members the following: John Klotz, William H. Pruner, John W. LeCrone, James M. Parker, Abram D. Rose, Henry F. Hetrick, Charles M. Weed, Jabez Charles, William T. Burgess, Eugene M. Cook, Jay Vestal, Isaac McCann, James Hawley, William Murley.

The present membership is forty-nine. Other lodges of this order are found in this county at Arlington, Blair, Herman and Fort Calhoun.

The present, or 1920, elective officers are: John Blaco, worshipful master; Edward F. Cushman, senior warden; Francis E. Dolan, junior warden; Charles W. Weed, treasurer; J. Floyd McCann, secretary; J. Ansel Toft, senior deacon; Edward E. Cushman, junior deacon; Gabriel R. Stewart, tyler.

This lodge owns its hall over the Home State Bank; cost \$2,200; built in 1915, of brick.

MASONRY AT FORT CALHOUN

From an early date Fort Calhoun has had a Masonic Lodge. Information blanks were sent to this lodge by the compiler of this chapter, but no response, hence no history appears. Suffice to say that a Blue Lodge and Eastern Star are both represented in Fort Calhoun. The history of the Order of Eastern Star will be found with other Eastern Star chapters within this work.

HIRAM LODGE NO. 52, AT ARLINGTON

This lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Arlington was organized June 26, 1874, by Charter Members S. G. Glover, J. A. Unthank, L. F. Jenks, H. F. Christ, N. R. Turner, Z. G. Wilcox, L. H. Wilcox, J. S. Thompson, Peter Hammang, J. C. Blackburn, W. S. Cook, G. Tripp and U. S. Wilcox.

The present (1920) total membership of this lodge is seventy-seven.

The first and present elective officers of this lodge have been:

S. G. Glover.....	Worshipful Master.....	Joseph C. Chapman
John H. Unthank.....	Senior Warden.....	Raymond E. Planck
Z. T. Wilcox.....	Junior Warden.....	Harold D. Weber
L. F. Jenks.....	Treasurer.....	D. C. Weber
John J. Thompson.....	Secretary.....	James C. Badger
L. S. Wilcox.....	Senior Deacon.....	
S. Tripp.....	Junior Deacon.....	

The lodge building occupied by this lodge is mostly owned by stockholders in the order; it is a two-story brick and stone structure.

LANDMARK LODGE NO. 222, A. F. & A. M.—HERMAN

This Masonic Lodge was formed June 21, 1894 and its records were all destroyed by the great cyclone of 1899. But transcript records from the Grand Lodge of Nebraska show the following facts:

The charter members were as follows: John C. Bailey, first worshipful master; Thomas B. Bailey, John M. Bovee, Eugene W. Burdic, Frank F. Burdic, Charles H. Burdic, John H. Chambers, Malcolm Cameron, William C. Cameron, Jesse L. Conant, Jr., Orton C. Dorsey (secretary), Samuel Dorsey, John Estaque, Stanley Gray, Levi Johnson, Thomas Leonard, Isaiah Luckens, E. C. McConnaha, John Patrick (treasurer), William Rutledge (tyler), John A. Sullivan and Melville S. Wilcox.

The total membership is now about 120.

The present (1920) elective officers are: C. J. Thone, worshipful master; Fred Robertson, senior warden; James Van Horn, junior warden; E. W. Burdic, treasurer; C. R. Gray, secretary; Charles Nelson, tyler.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

This is an auxiliary of the Masonic Order and within the last few years has become quite universal and popular in the great field of Masonry.

Sarepta Chapter No. 48, Order of Eastern Star, at Arlington, was organized June 15, 1892, under direction of the Masonic fraternity. The chapter now has a membership of sixty-eight. Herman and Blair in Washington County also have chapters in this fraternity.

The sisters who made up the charter membership of the Arlington Chapter were as follows: Minnie Jewett, Rita M. Badger, Alida Dyer, M. A. Whitney, Jessie Turner, Johana Olesen, Jennie Glover, Barbara Hammang, Z. G. Sharp, Rose Sharp, Orilla Hammang, Jane A. Unthank, Carrie M. Roth, Tilla Osterman, Lydia A. Mansfield, M. A. Reynolds, Eva Fink.

The original and present (1920) elective officers of this chapter are as follows:

Original Officers	1920 Officers
Jane A. Unthank.....Worthy Matron.....	Drusilla McCann
John A. Unthank.....Worthy Patron.....	Ernest Planck
Julia A. Whitney.....Associate Matron.....	Jennie Glover
W. D. Badger.....Secretary.....	Florence Planck
Barbara Hammang.....Treasurer.....	Mary Gilfrey
Minnie Jewett.....Conductress.....	Anna Glover
Jennie Glover.....Associate Conductress.....	Harriet Lawson

NAOMI CHAPTER NO. 121, ORDER EASTERN STAR

This chapter was organized at Fort Calhoun February 17, 1898, and now enjoys a total membership of forty.

It is stated upon the best of authority that the first Eastern Star Chapter in Nebraska was organized at Fort Calhoun, about 1868, became defunct after two years or so, and its records and money were all turned over to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska. It is thought this pioneer chap-

ter was formed under the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa. Many of the old settlers were members of the chapter.

Returning to the present chapter at Fort Calhoun, let it be said that its charter membership was as follows:

Mrs. Hannah M. Beals, worthy matron; George R. Whitney, worthy patron; Mrs. Caroline M. Tresler, associate matron; Hugh A. Stevenson, secretary; Fred H. Frahm, treasurer; Catherine C. Beales, conductress; Mrs. Jessie M. Foster, associate conductress; Sadie C. Beals, Myrtle Whitney, Elizabeth Bradley, Wm. R. Duncan, Edwin N. Grenell, Mrs. Sarah Coffman, N. Sheridan Craig, Mrs. Maud Craig, Dr. Thomas A. Reed, Edward G. Grenell, Mayme Duncan, Edith H. Grenell, Mrs. Johanna Schmidt, Mrs. Rhoda Craig, Mrs. Carrie Jipp, Camille Saltzman, Mrs. Jessie Foster, Miss Anna A. Carter, Emma C. Craig, Austin W. Beals.

The 1920 officers of this chapter are as follows: Mrs. Ella C. Beales, worthy matron; Fred H. Frahm, worthy patron, Clara H. Coffman, associate matron; Catherine C. Beals, secretary; Elsie R. Cook, treasurer; Sadie C. Frahm, conductress; Mary E. Rowley, associate conductress.

MCKINLEY CHAPTER NO. 161

McKinley Chapter Order of Eastern Star at Blair was organized May 7, 1902, by J. D. Hawthorne, grand patron. The present total membership is 160. Other chapters in Washington County are at Fort Calhoun, Arlington and Herman.

The charter members of this chapter (McKinley No. 161) were as follows: Eugene S. Beaty, Mrs. Alice J. Foley, Mrs. Nellie Smith, Miss Maud L. Carter, Mrs. Fanny Kelly, Mrs. Lulu Hahn, Mrs. Lou Beaty, Miss A. C. Kenny, George W. Sellers, Mrs. Belle Davis, Mrs. Addie E. Sellers, Will H. H. Davis, John C. Johnson, William Kelly, Miss Laura M. Lantry, Miss Bertha Crouch, Miss Sue M. Kenny, Mrs. Sarah A. Haller, Mrs. Sophie Arndt, Frederick Arndt, Frederick W. Kenny, Mrs. Minnie Williams, Mrs. Nanny A. Crouch, Mrs. Matilda A. Gross, Miss Bertha Taylor, Miss Stella Taylor, Mrs. Margaret C. Palmer, Mrs. Florence Carter, George Carter, Lyman A. Williams, Mrs. Anna McKeen, Miss June Fletcher, Miss Louise Kline, Miss Genevieve Davis, Miss Nellie Haller, Miss Cora Hester, Mrs. Nettie Carter, Miss Mittie Foley, G. S. Haller, Henry H. Hahn, Mrs. Annie J. Kenny.

First Officers	1920 Officers
Mrs. Alice J. Foley.....Worthy Matron.....	Mrs. Gussie Lippincott
Frederick W. Kenny....Worthy Patron.....	Oliver M. Ireland
Mrs. Sophie Arndt.....Associate Matron.....	Etel Mead
Mrs. Minnie Williams.....Secretary.....	Mrs. Minnie Williams
Mrs. Lou Beaty.....Treasurer.....	Miss Fanny Langtry
Mrs. Lulu Hahn.....Conductress.....	Mrs. Sadie Higley
Mrs. Nellie Smith.....Associate Conductress...	Mrs. Blanche Rhoades

HERMAN CHAPTER NO. 216

Herman Chapter Order of Eastern Star, at Herman, was organized March 3, 1908. The present membership of this chapter is 138.

The charter members in this chapter were as follows: Clara Bailey, worthy matron; Allen J. Cameron, worthy patron; Cora Burdic, associate matron; Axylphia Hungate, secretary; Dora Rose, treasurer; Lena Russell, conductress; Josephine Hart, associate conductress; Eugene

Burdic, Miss Birdie Fletcher, Carl Hansen, Mrs. Josephine Hansen, Floyd Van Valin, Charles Gray, George Hart, John Bailey, Minnie Ackerman, Maimie Cameron, Bessie Meador, Estella Gray, Thomas Hungate, Louie Fitch, Iredale Van Valin, Emma Spoore, Miss Alma Fletcher, Mrs. Elizabeth Gray, George Rose.

This chapter assemble in Masonic Hall, erected soon after the great cyclone in Herman, June 13, 1899.

The present (1920) elective officers are: Estella Gray, worthy matron; Hiram B. Cameron, worthy patron; Mrs. Mae Johnson, associate matron; Mrs. Effie M. Godsey, secretary; Miss Caroline Wachter, treasurer.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWSHIP

This ranks next in the age of its organization to Free Masonry and is now over a century old in this country.

Probably the first lodge of this fraternity, representing Friendship, Love and Truth, in Washington County, was Blair Lodge No. 14, organized in 1869 and now has a membership of 165. Its charter members were as follows: J. W. Hewell, Sr., S. B. Taylor, M. C. Huyett, James Denny, B. F. Hilton, Niles Noyes, J. H. Van Horn, James S. Stewart.

The original Noble Grand was S. B. Taylor and the vice grand was J. W. Hewell.

The officers today (1920) are: George Kuhr, noble grand; A. W. Rose, vice grand; J. L. Pounds, treasurer; T. H. Wright, secretary.

WASHINGTON LODGE NO. 41

Washington Lodge No. 41, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized at the Town of Arlington, October 11, 1873, with charter members as follows: William J. Crane, William Unthank, William H. Kingdon, William Shulze and Haman Chapman.

This lodge owns a handsome lodge room property consisting of the lower floor of the opera house. It is a two and one-half story building constructed of brick. It was erected in 1892 and is worth \$10,000. Prior to this the lodge owned another building which was burned in 1891; the first was a frame building.

The first and present officers were as follows:

First Officers	1920 Officers
William Unthank	Noble Grand.....
William J. Crane	Vice Grand.....
H. Chapman	Secretary.....
William H. Kingdon	Treasurer.....

KENNARD LODGE NO. 266

Kennard Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 266, was organized at the Village of Kennard, July 23, 1902. The charter members were as follows: William E. Swihart, L. A. Green, John Nissen, W. H. Menking, Henry Drevsen, B. Widener, Andrew D. Andersen, Mark I. Swihart, W. H. Harrison, Willis E. Anderson, Rasmus Larson, Nils P. Hansen, H. C. Blaco, Charles E. Edmondson.

This lodge now has a membership of 121 in good standing.

The first elective officers were: W. H. Menking, noble grand; W. E. Swihart, vice grand; L. A. Green, secretary; John Nissen, treasurer.

The present (1920) officers are: Carl A. Monson, noble grand; Peter Cook, vice grand; E. E. Cashman, secretary; C. E. Kronberg, treasurer; H. C. Blaco, C. B. Hansen and O. W. Marshal, trustees.

This lodge owns its own hall, costing \$2,000, purchased in 1914.

REBEKAH DEGREE OF ODD FELLOWSHIP

This auxiliary to Odd Fellowship is represented at several points in Washington County including the following places:

REBEKAH LODGE NO. 42—ARLINGTON

This lodge was organized December 3, 1888, with charter members as follows: J. Blessing, H. Chapman, O. Unthank, R. E. Roberts, John Hammang, Nellie Blessing, R. C. Smith, Mrs. L. B. Wilson, John Close, A. Masters, C. Saffenfield, D. C. Kenneecutt, James Hitchcock, Fred Menking, W. J. Crane, P. Z. Wilson, Mrs. W. J. Crane, Mrs. R. C. Smith, Mrs. D. C. Kenneecutt, Mrs. E. Fuller, Miss Lottie Fuller.

The original and present-day elective officers of this lodge are:

First Officers	Titles	1920 Officers
O. N. Unthank	Noble Grand	Miss Carrie Cowles
Mrs. E. Fuller	Vice Grand	Mrs. Euphemia Osterman
Miss Lizzie M. Wilson	Secretary	Mrs. Bessie Gaines
Mrs. R. E. Roberts	Treasurer	Miss Inez Wages
	Chaplain	Miss Gertrude Gaines
Mrs. J. G. Blessing	Ward	Mrs. Maymie Winset
Mrs. Letta A. Fuller	Conductor	Mrs. Sophia Conley
Mrs. W. J. Crane	Inside Guard	Helen Menking
H. C. Saffenfield	Outer Guard	Addie McKibbon

"FAITHFUL" REBEKAH LODGE NO. 332

This lodge was organized at Kennard April 16, 1918, with charter members as follows: Merie Blaco, Mamie Wright, Mae Jones, Tillie Nelson, Belle Bouch, Nathan Bouch, Ernest Nelson, Emma Nelson, Edna Anderson, Helen Berry, Elna Nissen, Charlotte Berry, Cleo Anderson, Christina Hansen, Anna Rosenbaum, Elizabeth Kronberg, Anna Kempcke, W. B. Rosenbaum, Taylor Meadows, Chris Hansen, H. C. Blaco, Gus Kempcke, G. E. Kronberg, Adolph Kroigard, Homer Ward, J. B. Anderson, Burr R. Jones.

The present total membership of this lodge is seventy-one.

Other lodges in Washington County of this order are at Blair and Arlington. The 1920 officers are: Tillie Nelson, noble grand; Nena Meadows, vice grand; Edna Anderson, secretary; Leona Nelson, treasurer; Mae Jones, warden; Angie Hall, conductor; Merie Blaco, chaplain.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS ORDER

This is one of the more modern secret societies in this country. It was established with Lodge No. 1, at the City of Washington, soon after the close of the Civil war in 1866, and has become quite popular in many portions of the country, not as strong, however, in this county as elsewhere.

GARFIELD LODGE NO. 6

This lodge was instituted at Blair April 7, 1883 by Deputy Grand Chancellor of Nebraska. The charter members were as follows: J. Alt-

schuler, E. S. Noble, J. R. Bryan, Perry Selden, Fred Noble, Douglass Smith, O. W. Cook, J. H. Sheen, Chris Boyer, Harry Higley, Thomas Finnell, H. Noble, T. P. Noble, W. G. Higley, Henry Hunter, E. S. Hewett, Charles McClatchie, Dr. H. Noble, C. A. Buffoon, J. Keppel, J. L. Conant, Jr., J. Brookwalter, E. Perry.

Only one of the original charter members are still with this lodge—Thomas Finnell.

This lodge was formed in the Masonic Hall, and has used various halls to the present date.

The present or 1920 elective officers are: Thomas T. Osterman, chancellor commander; J. H. Stewart, vice chancellor; C. R. Mead, prelate; Ed Matthiesen, master of exchequer; J. E. Carver, master of finance; H. N. Thone, keeper of records and seals; L. A. Farnberg, master at arms; A. J. Croudy, outside guard; Henry Grimm, inside guard.

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN

On account of the charter of this lodge at Herman, Washington County, having been destroyed in the great cyclone of 1899, the date of its organization cannot be here given, but it was a number of years previous to that never-to-be-forgotten wind storm.

It is, however, known that the following were first elective officers: Charles A. Marshall, past master workman; John H. Cameron, master workman; Elsworth Z. Russell, foreman; Carlton Saunders, overseer; Walter G. Clever, recorder; Silas Harris, Financier; John H. Chambers, receiver; James E. Dorsey, guide.

The present total membership of this Workman lodge is fifty.

The lodge does not own its hall but leases one.

The 1920 elective officers are as follows: Fred Robertson, master workman; J. P. Lowe, foreman; Charles Nelson, financier.

THE DANISH BROTHERHOOD

In Washington County among the beneficiary lodges is what is well known among the Danish people—the Danish Brotherhood of America. Lodge No. 173 of such an order was organized at Herman, this county, September 5, 1903. It now enjoys a total membership of forty-eight. Its charter members were as follows: C. A. Beck, N. P. Iversen, H. P. Hansen, John P. Erickson, Hans A. Nelson, James Jacobsen, R. N. Rasmussen, Peter Knudsen, L. P. Erickson, Fred D. Christensen, Peter N. Petersen, L. P. Skov, Lars Jacobsen, H. P. Christensen, Thorwald Hansen, C. M. Hansen, W. H. Christensen, Hans Petersen, H. F. Enges, C. H. Kruse.

The present elective officers are as follows: W. H. Christensen, president; R. P. Rasmussen, vice president; R. H. Rasmussen, secretary; Anton Rasmussen, treasurer; J. M. Jensen, H. P. Christensen and one more, are the trustees.

Blair and Kennard in this county also have lodges of this order.

KENNARD LODGE DANISH BROTHERHOOD NO. 159

This lodge was organized February 5, 1903, and now has forty-six members—three more than the original charter members.

The first officers were as follows: John Niessen, C. B. Hamen, Hans Andersen, A. P. Andersen, Nick Cook, Jens P. Sorensen, Hans

P. Christensen, John C. Jensen, Jens P. Hansen, Mogens Petersen, D. Hall.

The 1920 officers in charge are: C. B. Hansen, Ben Haaselstiam, L. Buck, Nick Cook, Nels E. Clovertemen, Nels O. Hansen, Peter Jorgensen, and Nels Andersen.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Blair, Fort Calhoun, Arlington and Kennard, all have lodges of this fraternity which is really one of the leading beneficiary orders in which many people are insured on the mutual plan.

Kennard Camp No. 1347 of Modern Woodmen of America was organized March 6, 1891, at the Village of Kennard and now has a total membership of 156.

The first charter members were: G. A. Compton, David Demaree, W. H. Epling, Frank McCracken, W. J. McCann, Christian F. Nelsen, W. H. Pruner, John Rosenbaum, W. H. Rosenbaum, H. J. Rosenbaum, S. M. Wright and F. P. Vannicle.

The first elective officers included these: H. J. Rosenbaum, worthy advisor; Chris S. Neilsen, banker; G. A. Compton, clerk; F. P. Vannicle, Escort; W. H. Rosenbaum, watchman; S. M. Wright, sentinel; Dr. W. H. Pruner, physician. The present elective officers are: George Nelson, venerable consul; A. E. Wright, advisor; E. E. Cashman, banker; C. M. Weed, clerk; I. C. Lantrup, escort; E. R. Cunningham, watch; Harold Bates, sentinel; Dr. J. B. Anderson, physician.

Trapbois Camp No. 1295 of Modern Woodmen of America was organized January 5, 1890, by J. C. Root. The charter members were as follows: John G. Power, John A. Schmahling, A. M. Schumaker, B. F. Monroe, W. C. Vaughn, M. M. Tomlinson, D. McMurtrie, W. E. Marsh.

The original officers were: John G. Power, counsel; W. C. Vaughn, adviser; J. A. Schmahling, clerk; W. E. Marsh, banker.

The present (1920) elective officers are as follows: N. W. Cole, counsel; E. F. David, adviser; T. H. Wright, clerk; J. E. Carver, banker; the trustees are Lou Vaughan, W. J. Koopman, W. H. Underwood.

CHAPTER XIII

CHURCHES OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES—THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES—THE BAPTIST CHURCHES—THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES—THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES—DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCHES—EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

The first church of this denomination to be formed in what is now Washington County was the one organized by Rev. Reuben Gaylord, of Omaha, at Fontanelle, the date being in the month of May, 1856. Its charter members were as follows: Samuel Strickland, Mrs. Emily K. Strickland, Thomas Gibson, Mrs. Sarah Gibson, James H. Peters, Mrs. Jane Peters, Rev. Thomas Waller, Lucien Kennedy, Rufus Brown, Mrs. Nancy Brown, James A. Bell, Miss Mary Bell, Edward Corless, Miss Mary Corless, John Francis, Mrs. Maria Francis, Silas J. Francis, Mrs. Celestia Francis, Cyrus Howell, Edward Holmes, Mrs. Elvina Holmes, William G. Brigham, and Mrs. Lucy C. Brigham.

Thomas Gibson and James A. Bell were appointed deacons; Rev. Thomas Waller was appointed the first pastor; the new church was presented with a fine silver communion set by the parent church at Quincy, Illinois. Among the pastors serving the Fontanelle Congregational Church may be recalled: Revs. E. B. Hurlbut, William McCandlish, L. H. Jones, C. G. Bisbee, Isaiah Smith, Thomas Douglas, Reuben Gaylord.

With the building up of other towns, the construction of railways and the almost abandonment of Fontanelle this church went down.

BLAIR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Church of Blair was organized February 10, 1870, by Rev. M. Tingley, and charter members were as follows: Rev. Marshall Tingley, Mrs. Cornelia Tingley, Niles Noyes, Mrs. Catherine Noyes, Mrs. Fanny Lantry, Mrs. Amy Kenny, Charles G. Maynard, Charles H. Eggleston.

The present (1920) total membership of this church is 115. The present Sunday school has a membership of forty-nine and its superintendent is R. J. Murdoch.

A Gothic type of church building was dedicated for this church November 22, 1874, the cost of which was \$2,070. At one date there was a parsonage, but that has been sold some years ago.

The only other Congregational Church in Washington County is the one at Arlington.

The pastors who have served faithfully and well at Blair are as follows: Revs. Marshall Tingley, Randolph Campbell, George W. Wainwright, Henry M. Goodell, Albert M. Case, Alonzo Rogers, John Power, Thomas D. McLean, George G. Perkins, Frank W. Gardner, J. Wallace Larkin, Arcline G. Axtell, Jesse B. Burkhardt, A. M. Abbott,

Royal C. Moodie, George R. McKeith, Charles A. Gleason, Jordan M. Kokjer, Abram R. Jones.

Arlington Congregational Church was organized in 1883 by C. W. Merrill, superintendent of Congregational Home Missionary Society for Nebraska. The charter members were these: Messrs. and Mmes. W. Hatton, J. E. Dole, J. B. Chapman, W. J. Crane; Mrs. O. K. Lewis and Mrs. S. Delo.

The present total membership of this church is eighty-five. The Sunday school has a membership of about fifty and has for its superintendent Miss Leta Marshall.

The following pastors have served the church at Arlington: Revs. B. F. Diffenbacher, W. P. Clancy, J. B. Bidwell, A. W. Ayers, John Kidder, T. E. Horton, G. T. Nichols, James Valier, L. S. Hand, Guy H. Rice, Gilbert Rindell, Jacob Flook, E. Lehman, Reverend Barnett, A. T. Davies, Wm. Kline and A. E. Bashford. W. H. Buss of Fremont has served recently as a supply.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

The first Methodist Episcopal Church at Arlington, was organized in 1869 when the place was known as Bell Creek. Rev. Jacob Adriance was the organizer of this as well as most churches in the county for this denomination. The names of charter members are not now available. The present total membership is 202. Total Sunday school attendance, 183. The 1920 superintendent is E. W. Elsner.

This church owns its own frame church edifice and parsonage, valued at about \$6,500. The present pastor is Rev. Joseph Stopford, whose salary is now \$1,625.

Other points in Washington County where Methodist Episcopal churches are established at this date are: Herman, Kennard, Rose Hill, Blair, Colby.

The subjoined is a list of the pastors for the Arlington church from date of formation until now: Revs. J. Van Anda, Jacob Adriance, William Peck, George W. De La Matyr, Peter Van Fleet, S. A. Baer, Jacob Charles, Alfred Hedgette, R. B. Wilson, W. J. Pyle, H. K. Baldwin, Oscar Eggelston, H. Trazona, J. Q. Fleharty, T. W. Mathews, R. J. Cocking, William Van Buren, W. D. Strambaugh, W. H. Underwood, Reverend Frazee, G. M. Couffer, Amos Fetzer, G. M. Couffer, H. A. Chappel, William Esplin, T. A. Truscott, J. D. Hummel, Joseph Stopford.

Herman Methodist Episcopal Church has a membership of 141; property valued at \$6,000; the pastor in 1920 is Rev. A. C. Rice.

Kennard Methodist Episcopal Church has a property worth \$3,000; pays a salary of \$1,400.

The Blair Methodist Episcopal Church, according to the last conference reports, has property valued at \$14,500; pays a salary of \$1,640; has a membership of 191.

LUTHERAN CHURCHES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, situated four miles north of Arlington, was organized in 1860 by A. W. Frese and now has a total membership of 665. Its parochial school has a membership of eighty.

A brick church edifice was erected by this congregation in 1890, costing \$15,000.

The following is a list of pastors serving this congregation since its organization: Revs. A. W. Frese, E. J. Frese, J. Hilgendorf, H. Hallerberg, G. W. Wolter.

This denomination also has a church at Blair, and one north of Fontanelle.

EMMANUS LUTHERAN CHURCH—KENNARD

This Lutheran Church is located at the Village of Kennard and was organized in 1895. The early records are not to be had now, says the pastor, hence all that can be recorded in this connection is that the church today has a total of fifty-four souls, and thirty-six confirmed members.

The present worth of church property is \$2,500 for the church and \$4,000 for the parsonage property.

DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A branch of this denomination is situated at Blair, Washington County. It was organized January 22, 1884, by Rev. A. M. Andersen. Charter members were—Morten Rasmussen, Lawritz Nyboe, Hans Smith, Mads Hensen, Peter Therkelsen and Christen Pedersen.

The present (1920) total membership is 273 men, women and children.

The congregation owns a good brick church edifice estimated to be worth \$12,000; it is a handsome brick structure. The parsonage is estimated to be worth \$7,000.

A Sunday school in connection with this church has an attendance of 130. The present superintendent is Mrs. Ove T. Anderson.

The pastors who have faithfully served this congregation are: Revs. A. M. Andersen, G. B. Christiansen, A. Rasmussen, H. Jensen, K. Anker, A. H. Schultz, H. L. Kjoller and present pastor, Rev. A. H. Schultz.

BAPTIST CHURCHES

The First Baptist Church of Blair, Nebraska, was organized September 18, 1869, by Rev. E. G. O. Groat and these as charter members—Rev. E. G. O. Groat, Mrs. Groat, Nathan Carter, Mrs. Nathan Carter, Burtis Rosa, J. S. Stewart and wife.

The 1920 total membership of this church is 235. The average Sunday school attendance is seventy-five, under Superintendent H. B. Taylor.

The first building occupied by this society was the one donated by the Baptist Church at Cuming City where the work was organized February 20, 1858, and later erected a church building at a cost of \$3,500, completed in the autumn of 1867. When the railroad was built and a town site made at present City of Blair in 1869, Cuming City was deserted and many moved to Blair. The Cuming City church was moved to Blair in the summer of 1872. This served until 1893, when the present church was erected at a cost of \$5,800. A parsonage was erected in 1879 and an addition made in 1884. When the new church was built the parsonage was moved from the church lot to its present location. It was remodeled at a cost of \$538.

Other Baptist churches are located at Herman and at Fletcher (New England Church) about seven miles west of Herman.

The following is a complete list of pastors who have served this Baptist congregation since its formation: Revs. E. G. O. Groat, J. F.

Taggart, I. Elkin, J. D. P. Hungate, A. Hitchcock, W. H. Eller, John Young, G. W. Taylor, J. C. H. Read, Amos Weaver, O. A. Holmes, Thomas Anderson, W. A. Brown, John V. Whiting, James Sheppard, S. C. Green, C. E. Tingley, S. W. Richards, George L. Conley, J. W. Cabeen, F. M. Sturderant, F. E. Volck and Rev. C. M. Foreman, the present pastor.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—HERMAN

The Baptist Church at Herman was organized December 20, 1879. The charter members were these: Turner Bailey, Lucy Bailey, John Bradford, Henrietta Bradford, John C. Bailey, Clara Bailey, James Fitch, Charlotte Fitch, James Allen.

There are now eighty-seven members in this church. Mrs. O. H. Godley is Sunday school superintendent and the school has an average of 125 scholars.

The first church building of this society was destroyed in the great cyclone of 1899 and rebuilt in 1900. The present church is valued at \$3,500.

The following have been the pastors of this church: Revs. John Patrick, 1880-85; W. M. Allen, 1885-86; J. M. Bay, 1887-88; P. A. Tinkham, 1888-91; C. B. Cary, 1892-93; A. M. McFarland, 1893-96; T. L. Kimball, student, 1897-99; G. A. Smith, 1901-02; T. C. Shaffer, 1903; C. T. Duholm, 1904-06; S. E. Bishop, 1907-09; Charles I. Nastor, 1910-11; Edmond Clark, 1912-13; G. A. Smith, 1915-18; M. W. Ballanger, 1918-19; Rev. Kesterson, 1920.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Francis Catholic Church at Blair was organized in 1871 by Father Burns. There are now fifty families connected with this Catholic congregation.

The original church edifice was erected in 1871 costing \$1,000; the second and present edifice was erected in 1889 at an expense of \$4,000.

In 1900 a good parsonage was built under the pastorate of Father Barrett.

The only other Catholic Church in Washington County is the one situated at Fort Calhoun.

The present pastor is Rev. C. O. Beyersdorfer, appointed here Thanksgiving Day, November, 1918. Other pastors, in order given, have preceded the present pastor; Rev. Fathers Burns, Flanigan, Daxaeher, Emblem, Killion, Aherne, C. Schmidt, Barry, N. J. Barrett, M. Brophy, T. O'Driscoll.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is situated at Blair, and was organized June 5, 1882, by the Rev. Robert Doherty. The charter members included the following persons:

John Wilbur, warden; Harry Higley, warden; Edward C. Jackson, E. H. Clarke, E. A. Stearns, Jessie S. Hoke, I. M. Castetter, treasurer, the same constituting the vestry. Other members included these: Helen M. Castetter, Flora Castetter, Eva Phelps, E. C. Jackson, William Jackson, Ada Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Mrs. John Wilbur, E. H. Clarke, William Clarke, Harry Higley, Miriam Castetter.

The present total membership of the Sunday school is thirty-five. Rev. Marsh is present superintendent.

In 1882 a frame church building was erected at a cost of \$2,500.

The following pastors have had charge of this parish: Revs. Jacobs, Safford, McGill, 1884; S. A. Potter, 1890; Talbot, 1892; Young, 1893, and present pastor, who came in 1901.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

May 4, 1904, a Presbyterian Church was formed at Fort Calhoun by Reverend Braden, D.D., of Bellevue. A. W. Stanley and W. H. Woods were elected elders. The same year the society purchased the old Congregational Church building—a small one-room structure. In 1908 it was enlarged at a cost in excess of \$2,000 and dedicated January 29, 1911. The regular pastorates have been: Reverend Black, followed by Rev. William Nicoll, William Primrose, Calvin Rice, Reverend Shallcross, August Hilkeman, Reverend Shimien, Benton Cleveland, Doctor Ramsey, Reverend Werner, H. M. Hanson, Rev. S. A. Hutchison.

While the church is not strong, it is in the fight to win and has been the means of doing much religious good for the community about old Fort Calhoun.

CHAPTER XIV

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

ITS PART IN THE CIVIL WAR—INDIAN TROUBLES—SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND THE LATE WORLD WAR—1914-18—FORT CALHOUN—ITS RUINS.

Washington County bore her share of burden during the Civil war from 1861 to 1865. Although she sent no organization of soldiers to the Southland, yet between thirty and forty of her citizens bore arms in regiments of other states, one of whom was second lieutenant of Company "I," Eighty-seventh Iowa Infantry, in the person of Abram C. Andrew, who was killed at Chickamauga. Besides these there were two companies of the Second Nebraska Cavalry, "A" and "B," raised in Washington County. Capt. Peter S. Reed commanded Company "A" and Capt. Roger T. Beall was in command of Company "B." This regiment was raised in the autumn of 1862, as a nine-months regiment, served about one year, guarding the settlements against threatened Indian invasions in western Nebraska and Dakota.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—1898

Soon after the sinking of the United States Gunboat "Maine" in the waters of Havana Bay, near our southern borders, it was believed that the boat had been destroyed, with many precious lives, by authority of Spain. This brought on a war between this country and Spain in which within a few weeks nearly all of Spain's war fleet was destroyed in Manila Bay, away out in the Pacific. This victory for the United States was declared by act of Congress in April and virtually ended by Admiral George Dewey, who had charge of our splendid navy at that time. By this war Cuba and the Philippine Islands were declared free and independent countries placed under the protection of the United States, instead of under Spanish rule, as they had been for nearly 400 years.

The army raised by this country for land and sea activities included our National Guard companies, so far as available. (See below.)

ROSTER OF SOLDIERS FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY

From the Nebraska adjutant-general's reports the following list of soldiers from Washington County in the Spanish-American war is given, and is supposed to be correct. These men served in Company "E" of the Third Nebraska Regiment:

Captain—Van Dusen, Don C., Aged 25, Blair.

First Lieutenant—Underwood, William H., aged 38 years, Arlington; Kenny, John M., aged 20 years, Blair.

Second Lieutenant—Underwood, William H., aged 38, Blair; Erickson, Fred A., aged 30, Fort Calhoun.

Quarter-master Sergeant—Hubler, Ellsworth G., aged 31.

Sergeants—Van Dusen, C. C., aged 23; Whitfield, Lewis D., aged 21, Arlington; Fitch, Scott M., aged 22, Herman.

Corporals—Sutherland, Earl B., aged 25, Blair; Blakesley, C. E., aged 23, Blair; Lorhbaugh, William H., aged 21, Arlington; Haller,

William M., aged 21, Blair; Alloway, Simon, aged 22, Kennard; Glover, Guy L., aged 21, Arlington; Grimm, Arthur, aged 21, Blair.

Wagoner—DuLaney, Thomas L., aged 18, Blair.

Musician—Jacobson, John A., aged 20, Fort Calhoun; Noble, Thomas, aged 22, Blair.

Artificer—Stull, Willis L., aged 21, Blair.

PRIVATES

Armende, John, aged 21, Arlington.

Beck, Andrew, aged 19, Blair.

Brahmstadt, Louis, aged 27, Blair.

Banister, William F., aged 25, Fort Calhoun.

Bedal, Eugene L., aged 19, Blair.

Bedal, Albert A., aged 22, Blair.

Cannon, Charles L., aged 28, Blair.

Clarkson, Harry H., aged 19, Arlington.

Dunn, Darley P., aged 18, Blair.

Daniels, Richard, aged 30, Blair.

Fawcett, Edw. E., aged 34, Blair.

Greene, Harry F., aged 23, Fort Calhoun.

Harrison, Charles A., aged 21, Fort Calhoun.

Hillman, Benj. S., aged 44, Fort Calhoun.

Hulse, Harvey B., aged 28, Fort Calhoun.

Haller, William M., aged 21, Blair.

Jeffers, William, aged 42, Fort Calhoun.

Kiefer, Lewis O., aged 24, Herman.

Krause, Eugene F., aged 31, Blair.

Kelly, Thomas P., aged 24, Blair.

Morton, George R., aged 21, Herman.

Mundorf, Albert, aged 21, Herman.

Morton, Richard E., aged 22, Herman.

Noyes, Clinton, aged 18, Blair.

Newton, Page C., aged 19, Blair.

O'Hanlon, William F., aged 18, Blair.

Peck, Benj. F., aged 24, Cumings City.

Pardew, Charles M., aged 23, Blair.

Phillips, Daniel A., aged 22, Blair.

Rathmann, George R., aged 32, Blair.

Rohwer, Marcus, aged 35, Fort Calhoun.

Sanden, Leonhardt C., aged 38, Herman.

Smith, Fred, aged 21, Blair.

Smith, Henry F., aged 22, Blair.

Saum, Gus A., aged 23, Fort Calhoun.

Schenk, William, aged 29, Blair.

Thomsen, Peter, aged 28, Blair.

Van Dusen, Claude C., aged 28, Blair.

Warrick, Charles A., aged 26, Blair.

Wisdom, William, aged 26, Blair.

Wolfe, James, aged 22, Herman.

DEATH LIST

The only soldier from this roster who paid the "supreme sacrifice" was Harry H. Clarkson, aged 19, of Arlington, who died at hospital, September 22, 1898.

THE WORLD WAR—1914-18

Eastern Nebraska, not unlike all other loyal sections of this Republic, had her part in the last great conflict which is now known as the "World war."

The underlying reason of this war was, as it developed in the course of the conflict, the desire of Germany through Emperor William II and the Junker or military class to dominate the world. That is now the settled belief of the best thinkers and historians of today. Other causes were frequently mentioned soon after the beginning of the conflict among which the more important included the following:

First—Commercial and industrial rivalry, especially as developed between Germany and Great Britain.

Second—International jealousy as to their power and predominance in the world. This involved—

Third—Excessive armaments entailing heavy burdens on the people and developing a spirit of—

Fourth—Militarism and growth of military parties and military castes.

Fifth—Conflict of Slav and Teuton races, resulting from national aspirations for territorial expansion; racial antagonism.

Sixth—Desire of certain rulers to put an end to international strife by consolidating public opinion through the agency of a foreign war appealing to the patriotism of the people.

Seven—Desire to preserve the status quo in Europe by preserving the neutrality and independence of the smaller nations.

Eighth—Revenge resulting from former conflicts such as the War of 1870 between Germany and France and the more recent Balkan wars.

Nine—Conflict of democracy as opposed to autocracy and bureaucracy.

Tenth—Conflict of national ideals, "cultures."

Eleventh—Persons ambitious of men high in position, authority and power.

Twelve—Persistent talk of war by yellow journals and Jingoists.

Thirteen—Publication of books, like those of General Bernhardi, declaring war to be a blessing, a necessity and a great factor in the furtherance of culture and power.

Fourteen—Formation of international alliances presenting localizing of any conflict.

THE MURDER OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND

It may be said that the immediate cause of the war was the assassination in Sarajevo, Bosnia, June 28, 1914, of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew of the Emperor of Austria, heir to the throne of the dual monarchy and commander-in-chief of its army, and his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, by a Serbian student, Gavrio Prinzip, aided by a number of others. It was the outcome of years of ill-feeling between Serbia and Austria-Hungary due to the belief of the people in the smaller state that their aspirations as a nation were hampered and blocked by the German element in the Hapsburg Empire. These countries had been on the verge of war several years before over the annexation of Bononi and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, and later, over the disposition of Scutari and certain other territory, conquered in the Balkan-Turkish struggle.

GREAT BRITAIN ENTERS THE WAR

Resentment in Austria-Hungary, because of the murder of the heir to the throne, was deep and bitter, and the authorities decided immediately to take radical measures against Serbia. An ultimatum was issued July 23, 1914, and war was declared against Serbia two days later. Russia insisted that an attack on Serbia was equivalent to an affront to itself and in a few days Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary were all in a state of warfare. France began to mobilize its military resources. Germany invaded the Duchy of Luxembourg and demanded free passage for its troops across Belgium to attack France at that country's most vulnerable point. King Albert of Belgium refused his consent on the ground that the neutrality of his country had been guaranteed by the powers of Europe, including Germany itself and appealed to Great Britain for diplomatic help. That country which it was asserted had sought through its foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, to preserve the peace of Europe was now aroused. August 4th it sent an ultimatum to Germany demanding that the neutrality of Belgium be respected. As this demand was not complied with Great Britain formally declared war against Germany. Joined with Germany and Austria-Hungary in what is known as the Triple Alliance was Italy, but the last-named country claimed it was not bound by the terms of the compact to assist the others in what it looked upon as a war of aggression. It declined to be drawn into the conflict so long as its own interests were not threatened. The sympathy of its people was with the French and British. Before the end of the second week in August, Germany and Austria-Hungary were at war with Russia, Great Britain and its Dominions, France, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro. August 24th, Japan, Britain's ally in the Far East, entered the fray by declaring war against Germany. They also attacked the Fatherland's colony of Klaochow, in China. October 29th, Turkey suddenly attacked Russia. Thus by November 5th there were ten nations and their dependencies at war.

Thousands of American tourists and business men traveling in Europe found great inconvenience and met with great losses. The war upset the whole system of international credit, the railroads were monopolized for war purposes and tens of thousands of Americans found themselves stranded abroad. Hundreds of their automobiles were seized by the Germans and almost every American was looked upon as a spy for other countries against Germany. This brought about a radical and sudden change of public opinion in the United States. Our Congress appropriated \$2,500,000 for the relief of American travelers thus stranded in Europe. By the end of August, 1914, the German army was across the line, over into France, and heavy fighting was going on daily by German, French and English soldiers, and the death rate was very heavy.

THE OUTLOOK IN 1917

Three years after the war had commenced, or rather in 1917, from an American viewpoint the entry of the United States into the war was an outstanding feature—it was the important factor of the great conflict. This was not willingly but an act of expediency upon the part of America. It will be recalled that the terrible submarine warfare carried on by the German Government as early as 1915 had killed hundreds of innocent Americans. A war zone had been established by the Germans

which prohibited any of our vessels from sailing inside such zone, either passenger or freight boats. May 6, 1915, the "Lusitania," a 32,000-ton passenger boat, was destroyed and a thousand lives lost, including more than 100 men and women from America. President Wilson resented this ruthless sinking of an American passenger-laden steamer, reminding the Germans that such an act must not be repeated, whereupon Germany appeared to put in an apology and agreed that it should not again happen, but still the horrible sea-war went forward and the submarines were more numerous in the destruction of our boats and sinking our property than before. Our merchant marine vessels were sunk by the hundreds in direct violation of all German promises toward neutral countries.

CONGRESS VOTES WAR APRIL 6, 1917

From the Chicago Daily News "Year-Book" and other reliable sources the foregoing is quoted so far as the causes of the war is concerned, and in speaking of the United States entering the war as one of the Allies, that publication says:

"Congress was overwhelmingly in favor of the course advised by the President and on April 6, a joint resolution was adopted formally declaring the existence of a state of war between the government of the United States of America and the Imperial government of Germany. Only six Senators and fifty Representatives voted in the negative. After taking this momentous step Congress urged by the President, passed measures providing for the immediate creation of a national army and the increase to war strength, of the national guard, the marine corps and the navy. It passed laws against espionage, trading with the enemy and the unlawful manufacture and use of explosives in time of war. It provided for the insurance of soldiers and sailors, for priority of shipments, for the seizure and use of enemy ships in American waters, for conserving and controlling the food and fuel supply of the country, for stimulating agriculture, for the increasing of the signal corps, for issuing bonds, for stimulating an aviation corps and for the providing additional revenues for war expenses by the increasing old and creating new taxes."

"WAR TO VICTORY" THE SLOGAN

Having determined to engage in war, this country bent every known factor toward success. Its first step was to increase the army through a system of select draft and also by securing as many volunteers as possible for the national guard, the marine corps and the navy. The enlistments were numerous, but it was soon seen that a select draft must come, if a large enough army and navy be obtained. Men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty years, inclusive, registered June 5th, under the Act of May 18 providing for the temporary increase of the military establishment of the United States. The total number inscribed was 9,683,455. The quota of men to be supplied by each state and territory was determined by the population. The total number called, for the first "draft" was 687,000. This number were summoned, examined, and either accepted or rejected.

The troop movement was something wonderful, in view of the great danger by reason of the submarines. But by November of the same year, more than 2,000,000 men from America had been landed in France, England and Italy. This immense number of men was transported over the seas without the loss of a single east-bound transport. It was the

thought of the United States government to place within European countries at least 4,000,000 men by the summer of 1919 and by this it was believed Germany might finally be conquered, but happily the armistice was signed November 11, 1918, and the transportation of American soldiers was stopped.

SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE

President Wilson issued the formal proclamation on Monday morning, November 11, 1918:

"My Fellow Countrymen—The armistice was signed this morning. Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will now be our fortunate duty to assist by example, by sober friendly council and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world.
WOODROW WILSON."

What is known as the "Peace Celebration" occurred on November 11th, and it commenced just as soon as the thousands of towns, cities and villages heard the glad news that the Germans had signed the armistice which, according to Chicago time, was about 1 o'clock in the morning of that day. No place in the United States and Canada was without its wonderful celebration stunts—some one way and some another. The noise and outburst from every loyal citizen was as if all the Fourth-of-July celebrations this country has ever had were boiled down into one hour of this day with the other twenty-three left to re-celebrate in.

GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE WAR

June 28—Archduke Ferdinand and wife assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

July 28—Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

August 1—Germany declares war on Russia; general mobilization begun.

August 3—Germany declares war on France.

August 4—State of war between Great Britain and Germany is declared.

August 4—Germany declares war on Belgium.

August 8—Germans capture Liege.

August 20—Germans enter Brussels

August 23—Japan declares war on Germany.

September 2—Lemberg captured by Russia; seat of French government transferred from Paris to Bordeaux.

September 5—England, France and Russia sign compact not to conclude peace separately.

September 6—Allies win battle Marne.

October 9 and 10—Germans capture Antwerp.

October 29—Turkey begins war with Russia.

1915—A. D.

February 19—British and French fleets bombard Dardanelles forts.

March 10—Battle of Neuve Chappelle begins.

May 7—Liner Lusitania torpedoed and sunk by German submarine.

May 23—Italy formally declares war on Austria and mobilizes army.

July 29—Warsaw evacuated; Lublin captured by Austrians.

August 4—Germans occupy Warsaw.

September 20—Austrians and Germans begin drive on Serbia.

September 29-30—Battle of Champaign.

December 8-9—Allies defeated at Macedonia.

1916—A. D.

February 21—Germans under Crown Prince begin attack on Verdun defenses.

April 18—President Wilson sends final note to Germany.

April 19—President Wilson explains in speech before Congress in joint session.

April 24—Insurrection in Dublin.

June 5—Lord Kitchner lost with cruiser Hampshire.

July 1—Battle of Somme begins.

August 3—Sir Roger Casement executed for treason.

August 27—Italy declares war against Germany.

August 28—Roumania declares war against Austria-Hungary.

December 5—British cabinet resigns.

December 10—New British cabinet formed with Lloyd George at its head.

December 12—Germany proposes peace negotiations.

December 18—President Wilson sends note to belligerent nations asking them to make known their peace terms and to neutral nations and suggesting they support America's action.

December 30—Allies make joint reply to Germany's peace proposal rejecting it as a war maneuver.

1917—A. D.

January 22—President Wilson addresses the United States Senate on subject of world peace and the establishment of a league of nations.

January 31—Ambassador Count Von Bernstorff hands note to Secretary Lansing in Washington announcing the inauguration by Germany of an unrestricted submarine warfare, February 1st; Germany proclaims boundaries of blockade zone.

February 1—Germany begins unrestricted warfare.

February 3—President Wilson orders that Ambassador Count Von Bernstorff be handed his passports, directs the withdrawal of Ambassador James W. Gerard, and all American consuls from Germany and announces his action in a speech before Congress; suggests to neutral countries that they follow America's example.

February 7—United States Senate endorses President Wilson's action in breaking with Germany.

February 8—Germany detains Ambassador Gerard in Berlin; liner California torpedoed and sunk with loss of forty lives.

February 25—"Hindenburg retreat" from Somme sector in full progress.

March 1—President Wilson, at request of Senate, confirms existence of German plot in Mexico; House grants President power to arm merchant ships.

March 15—Extra session of Congress; Czar Nicholas II of Russia abdicates throne for himself and son.

March 30—Foreign Secretary Zimmerman in Reichstag explains his efforts to embroil Mexico and Japan with the United States; President Wilson and cabinet decide that war with Germany is the honorable recourse left to the United States.

April 2—Special session of American Congress opens; President in address asks that existence of a state of war with Germany be declared.

April 6—House passes war resolution; President signs resolution and issues war proclamation; all American forces mobilized; German vessels in American ports seized.

April 7—Cuba and Panama declare war on Germany.

April 8—Austria-Hungary announces break in relations with the United States.

April 10—Brazil breaks off relations with Germany.

April 20—"America Day" in Britain; special services held in Saint Paul's Cathedral.

April 21—Turkey breaks off relations with the United States; Balfour mission arrives in United States.

April 24—Joffre-Viviani French mission arrives in America.

April 25—Joffre-Viviani French mission gives great ovation in Washington; President appoints Elihu Root head of mission to visit Russia.

April 28—Senate and House pass draft bill; Secretary McAdoo says the bond issue will be called "Liberty Loan of 1917."

May 5—Great Britain joins in asking that American troops be sent to France at once; Marshal Joffre speaks in Chicago.

May 9—Liberia ends relations with Germany.

May 17—First American Red Cross unit hospital arrived in England for service with the British in France.

May 18—President Wilson orders the sending of a division of regulars to France under Major-General J. J. Pershing; announces that he will not approve of raising volunteers by Theodore Roosevelt for service in Europe. Issues proclamation fixing June 5th as the date for the registration of men eligible for service under the draft law.

May 19—President Wilson asks Herbert C. Hoover to take charge of food administration in America during the war.

May 20—German plot for world domination laid bare in Washington.

June 5—Registration day under selective draft law in the United States; about 10,000,000 men registered.

June 27—American troops arrive in France.

June 29—Greece severs relations with Germany and her allies.

July 9—President Wilson proclaims mobilization of national guards.

July 20—Draft day in the United States.

July 31—British drive in Flanders begun.

August 14—China declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.

August 2—General embargo on exports beginning August 30th proclaimed by the President; full aid to Russia pledged by the President.

December 7—Congress passes resolution declaring state of war to exist between the United States and Austria-Hungary.

December 17—Red Cross drive commenced in the United States.

December 26—United States takes over all railroads (beginning December 28th); Secretary McAdoo appointed director-general of the railway lines.

December 28—Order turning railroads over to the United States carried.

1918—A. D.

January 16—Fuel Administrator Garfield orders factories to shut down five days and also on Mondays until the end of March to save coal.

January 25—Britain asks for 75,000,000 bushels more of grain from the United States.

May 7—Nicaragua declares war on Germany.

May 25—Second Red Cross fund of America over-subscribed.

June 3—Ten American ships sunk off the Atlantic coast by German submarines, between May 26th to June 3rd.

July 2—President announces that there were 1,019,115 American soldiers in France July 1st.

July 21—Germans driven out of Chateau Thierry by French and American soldiers.

November 4—Austria makes complete surrender.

November 9—The Kaiser renounces the throne.

November 11—German envoys sign armistice terms and fighting ceases. The exact time was 11 o'clock A. M. and this order applies along the line. President Wilson announced to Congress, "The war thus comes to an end." Great peace celebrations were held all over this country.

December 4—President Wilson and peace party sail for France from New York on the steamer George Washington.

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S PART IN THIS WAR

When it was known that the United States was to take part in this conflict between the European states, many doubted the wisdom of the act on the part of the Government, but as time passed on nearly all in this county came to believe that the great civilized world demanded our country to have a part in spreading democracy and helping to cause wars to cease everywhere, if possible.

While the Government has not as yet compiled any absolute roster of the men furnished in this war, the various county and state records to which we have had free access, we are enabled to give a fairly complete list of the soldiers who served from Washington County. It is true, however, that many more went into the service from other places, hence were not accredited to this county, but the roster as compiled for the enlistments known to have been from this county are as follows:

Abbott, Aubry E.	Barry, James F.	Caldwell, Earl C.
Abbott, Mons E.	Bartlett, William H.	Cameron, M. Leo
Ackerman, Floyd	Barton, Arthur L.	Cameron, Whit
Alexander, Hyman E.	Bates, William C.	Cannon, Cornelius
Ames, Charles W.	Beck, Wilhelm	Vanderbilt
Anderson, Alfred C.	Berry, Charles L.	Capps, Stanley M.
Anderson, Christian	Berry, Leslie T.	Carmichael, Walter
Anderson, Dean D.	Bergman, Bernard	Carpenter, Evan Henry
Anderson, Gustav L.	Bick, August	Carpenter, Henry W.
Anderson, John E.	Bilberdorf, Leonard	Carpenter, Eric G.
Anderson, William C.	Bierman, Otto C. H.	Carter, Charles J.
Anderson, Roy A.	Biffar, Lomnie	Christ, John E.
Anderson, Ruthven C.	Blackhall, Rowland	Christensen, John
Anderson, Silas C.	Blackstone, Robert C.	Christensen, Francis
Anderson, Clayton	Blockenbeckler, Archie	Christensen, Harry
Anderson, Everett E.	Blackenfeld (Corp.)	Christensen, Calvin C.
Andrews, Charles W.	Bollin, William	Christofferson, Fred
Antrim, Archie Arthur	Bowman, Fay	Christofferson, Morse
Antrim, John Lewis	Bowman, Virgil Clare	Chubatai, Fred
Antrim, Wallace Elwood	Boss, Ralph	Clasen, Henry
Arp, Henry O.	Bandert, Edward W.	Clasen, Lewis
Aubury, Henry L.	Bradley, Raymond	Claycomb, James
Auch, Gustav	Banbarger, Charles A.	Colden, Archie J.
Autzer, Johannes	Brennan, Fred T.	Calger, Frank
Axtell, Leonard E.	Brinkman, John M.	Calger, Thomas L.
Bandor, Joseph	Burt, Merle S.	Collea, Angelo
Barr, Clarence	Burgess, John A.	Compton, Allen
Barry, John L.	Bustein, Louis L.	Cornelius, Frederick

Cornelius, James	Gustason, Vetre	Jensen, Leslie
Cornelius, Nils	Gutchow, Walter	Jensen, Martinus
Craig, Elmer Sheridan	Gustin, Orin B.	Jensen, Oscar H.
Cummings, James E.	Hain, Howard Earl	Jensen, Theodore
Crouse, Lorenzo	Hain, Stanley Elwood (Deceased)	Jessen, John P.
Dockson, Fred P.	Hall, Bernard Richard (Deceased)	Jessen, Thomas P.
David, McKinley (Deceased)	Hall, Lawrence	Jessen, Herald Curtis
Dennis, Charles E.	Hall, Wilber D.	Jesperson, Otto
Dennis, Ottis C.	Halstead, Roy	John, Arthur H.
Debal, Anders C.	Hansen, Hans	John, Perry T.
Denton, Frank R.	Hansen, Edward B.	John, Ralph C.
Dennison, Fred L.	Hansen, Erke C.	Johnson, Albert
Detlef, Harry William	Hansen, Hans K.	Johnson, Carl (Deceased)
DeWitt, Walter G.	Hansen, Herold	Johnson, Erwin T.
DeYapp, H.	Hansen, Rasmus P.	Johnson, Harvey B.
Dickmeyer, Frederick	Hansen, Thorvald H.	Johnson, Hugo
Dixon, Arthur E.	Hanthone, Verne Alvin	Johnson, Martin Luther
Dixon, Gifford	Hammang, Leonard E.	Jones, Charles
Dixon, William B.	Hartung, Elmer G.	Jones, Raymond B.
Dixon, Curtis L.	Hastings, Glenn A.	Jones, Richard W.
Dolan, Warren E.	Hawes, George F.	Jorgenson, Thorvold
Dolan, John J.	Healey, Anthony F.	Kuhre, Julius
Dowden, Ray L.	Hedelund, George T.	Kudsk, Ben Jens
Dunn, Willis G.	Helmsing, Fred E.	Kruse, Paul W.
Eakin, Samuel	Hemphill, William, Dr.	Kruse, Victor
Edwards, Earl	Henningsen, Herbert	Kruse, Louis
Eistrup, Peter T.	Henricksen, Jens	Kruger, Eli F.
Elliott, Walter	Hindley, George D.	Kroger, John
Erickson, Emil B.	Hineline, Charles	Krause, Otto
Farr, Howard E.	Hineline, Rupert	Krause, Earl G.
Farnburg, Lewis C.	Hilgenkamp, William H.	Kramer, Albert
Frick, John W.	Hoenemann, Will H.	Krollman, Gust
Flake, Henry	Holetton, Ora V.	Krajicek, Berj
Fleege, George	Holtman, Adolph	Krajicek, Lewis
Frankson, Chris R.	Hoover, John E.	Korshoj, Chris
Frederickson, Hans E.	Horn, Robert T.	Krudsen, Carl (Deceased)
Frederickson, Erick	Hossman, Everett M.	Krudsen, Krudsens
French, Earl D.	Hulbert, Harold Wallace	Knott, Floyd H.
Fuhrhop, August G.	Hull, Wyatt T.	Klindt, Henry
Gaines, Clyde	Hullinger, Christopher	Klenk, William G.
Gaylord, Fred H.	Hundahl, Raymond A. (Deceased)	Klahn, Ben
Geary, Robert A.	Ireland, Louis	King, Ralph J.
Gibbs, John	Jackson, Thomas R.	Kiefer, Alford
Giesselman, Henry A.	Jacobs, Raymond N.	Kerr, Henry L.
Gilbert, John T.	Jansen, Ole R.	Kelly, Paul
Gilfry, Harold R.	Jansen, Anton H.	Kelley, Harold M.
Goll, Walter R.	Jansen, Carl G.	Kelley, Floyd M.
Goreham, Charles R.	Jensen, Dewy M.	Keegan, Francis
Greumke, Frederick	Jensen, Elmer B.	Kassiti, Raymond M.
Greumke, George H.	Jensen, Fred H.	Kahnk, John C.
Greumke, John G.	Jensen, Fred W.	La Fronz, Julius (Deceased)
Greenle, Albert D.	Jensen, Jacob	
Griffin, Norris		
Gustason, Arthur D.		

Loakes, Ernest
 Lake, Albert
 Lamb, George
 Lang, Leo M.
 Lang, Roy M. D.
 Larsen, Lawrence C.
 Laursen, James
 Leorned, Sylvester
 Lewis, George
 Liesemeyer, Louis
 Lothrop, C. C.
 Lothrop, Grant
 Lothrop, Norman K.
 Lottman, Charlie
 Lottman, Paul
 Ludwig, Glen
 Ludwig, Henry
 Ludwig, Otto
 Ludwig, Raymond
 Luebker, Fred
 Lueninghoener, Arthur
 Lundt, Gustav
 Lundt, Albert J.
 Lund, Henry
 Lund, Leonard
 Madsen, Albert
 Madsen, Harry
 Madsen, M. P.
 Madsen, Maurice
 Magnusson, Rudolph
 Maher, Roland
 Malmberg, Fred P.
 Marshall, Victor
 Mathews, Wilber A.
 Maynard, Benj.
 McBride, Lyle E.
 McComb, Percy D.
 McCourtie, Glenn E.
 McCune, Samuel W.
 McDonald, Glen
 McDonald, Robert
 McFarland, Herman
 McKercher, Louis
 Meador, Aaron
 Meador, Wm. Howard
 Miesner, Richard C.
 Menking, Lawrence
 Menking, Roy E.
 Metzler, Clyde Waldo
 Michaels, Walter
 Millner, Louis C.
 Miller, A. H.
 Miller, George C.
 Miller, Harvey E.
 Miller, Robert E.

Milikan, Earl S.
 Misfeldt, Charles
 Missina, G.
 Monson, Carl A.
 Morley, N. G.
 (Deceased)
 Mortensen, Robert D.
 Morse, George
 Muller, F.
 Munson, Elmer C.
 Murphy, Stephen M.
 Nelson, Andrew
 Nelson, Andrew
 Nelson, Arthur
 Nelson, Carl
 Nelson, George
 Nelson, Hans K.
 Nelson, Henning F.
 Nelson, Martin L.
 Newcomb, Floyd
 Neumann, Herman
 Nicoline, Louis
 Niederdippe, Ezra
 Noeberg, John
 Nielsen, Andrew
 Nielsen, Anton
 Nielsen, Chris E.
 Nielsen, Juul C.
 Nielsen, Laurite
 Nielson, Otto
 Nonnamaker, Edward
 Nonnamaker, Zeno
 Northway, Edward
 Noyes, Lisle G.
 Novak, Walter J.
 Nyegaard, Kay K. H.
 Oberg, Amel
 Offen, Lisle Roffe
 Ogorodwick, Julius
 Ohrt, William H.
 Oleson, Arthur
 Oleson, George A.
 Oleson, Jacob Neils
 Osborn, Charlie
 Osborne, Thomas J.
 Ottomoeller, Henry
 Parrish, Lynn
 Paulsen, Hans
 Paulsen, John
 Pearson, Oscar
 Peebles, Leland T.
 Peters, Carl
 Peters, Charles
 Petersen, Amandus
 Petersen, Christ J.

Petersen, Emanuel
 Petersen, Peter
 (Deceased)
 Petersen, Soren
 Peterson, Ernest C.
 Peterson, Alfred E.
 Peterson, Lodie Ed.
 Peterson, Leonard
 Peterson, Harold Olaf
 Peterson, Henry
 Peterson, Lawrence
 Pfieffer, Chester
 Pickell, George
 Pierson, Otis E.
 Pilpik, Joseph
 Plugg, Henry
 Pohlman, Albert
 Prochnow, Albert J. F.
 Pruner, Gifford
 Pruner, Orin
 Rabes, Chris (Deceased)
 Rabes, Jens
 Rask, Anton (Deceased)
 Rask, Ernest
 Rasmussen, Carl
 Rasmussen, Esk.
 Rasmussen, Howard L.
 Rasmussen, James
 Rasmussen, Lars
 Rasmussen, Sofus
 Rathman, J.
 Reeh, Lyle R.
 Reeres, Opal
 Reid, Earl C.
 Reid, Raymond
 Rennard, Ed. John
 Rhea, Don L.
 Richter, Harry
 Riessem, Edward
 Rix, Howard John
 Rix, Ernest
 Roberts, Lawrence
 Robinson, Raymond H.
 Rodgers, Thomas
 Rodman, Roland
 Rosenbalm, Floyd
 Rosenbalm, Hayes
 Rosenkilde, George
 Ross, George
 Rurup, Henry C.
 Russ, Carl L.
 Salsberry, William
 Scheffler, Orval
 Schmidt, Carl John
 Schmidt, Ernest

Schmidt, Henry	Steppat, Eddie	Vybral, Frank
Schmidt, William	Stewart, Donald	Wahlgren, Howard
Schroeder, Carl	Stewart, Guy	Waldenstrom, Carl H.
Searing, Voorhees P.	Stewart, Theo M.	Walkenhorst, August
Shinkle, Cleo	Stork, Frederick	Ward, Leland Earl
Shoemaker, Albert	Stork, Martin W.	Waterman, August A.
Short, Grove J.	Stricklett, Cecil Victor	Waulborn, Henry
Silvey, William C.	Stricklett, Gail	Webb, Fred
Simpson, Arthur	Stricklett, J. M.	Weber, Harold De
Simpson, George	Strode, Jacob C.	Weber, Leo
Skinner, John	Struve, Herman	Wehmeyer, Walter
Skow, Walter (Deceased)	Soverkrubbe, Albert	Wentworth, Forest
Smith, Grover I.	Sydd, Alfred George C.	West, Ben
Smith, Clifford P.	Sylvis, James	West, Elmon Dayton
Smith, Phillip Clifford	Taylor, Carleton S.	West, Everett
Smith, Henry Frederick	Theede, William F.	Westerman, Edward
Snowden, George W.	Thielfoldt, John	White, David
Sproker, Ernest	Thies, Sigmond	Whitford, Murray
Sproker, Fred Henry	Thompson, Neale	Wilcox, Marshall Ray
Sorenson, Martin C.	Thompson, Robert	Wilkinson, Clyde
Sorenson, Chris	Thornbert, Earl	Williams, John
Stapers, Fred	Timpe, Karl	Wolf, Berry
Stofford, James	Truhlsen, Henry	Wolff, Frank
Stalcup, Chester A.	Utterback, John Millard	Wolff, Louis
Stangle, George	Utterback, Elmer Floyd	Wolsman, Detlef
Stanley, Walter	Vaughn, Burl B.	Woodward, Lyman
States, C.	Vail, Sydney	Albert, Jr.
Steel, James	Vesper, David	Wright, Howard
Steel, Robert	Viigualir, H.	Wright, William
Stender, Emil	Vig, Bennett	Wulbern, Henry E.
Steensen, Anders	Von Knuth, C. H.	Zimmerman, Fred

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Besides sending to the front, and overseas, the full quota of men called for in the several drafts, Washington County also opened up her treasury and responded liberally in the several "drives" made to sell United States war bonds and stamps; also in the work of the Red Cross. The total amount of government war bonds sold in this country, as shown by records kept in the banks, was \$1,961,300.

The Red Cross funds raised in the county were far in excess of the quota demanded of the people of the county, and the several thousand dollars on hand today is being used in the various noble charities of the Red Cross Society in Nebraska. Let it be said that both men and women throughout Washington County did their "bit" as was asked by President Wilson himself early in the war when urging people to give liberally.

CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

At the northwest corner of the public or Courthouse Square, in Blair, stands a fine granite shaft at the intersection of the two streets. It was erected to the memory of the Civil war soldiers who lie buried in Washington County soil. Its north face bears the inscription: "1861-1865—To

the Memory of the Union Soldiers Buried in Washington County, Nebraska. 1898."

The heavy and numerous granite bases and shafts are surmounted by a life-sized statue of an infantryman soldier holding his musket. The monument was erected by subscription among the citizens of the county and city, while the statue just mentioned above was purchased of the railroad company in Omaha for the freight charges held against it, the bill being only \$60. The total cost of the monument was \$1,160. It is now enclosed by a neat iron fence, built in a substantial manner.

CONCERNING FORTS CALHOUN AND ATKINSON

[The following are notes furnished by W. H. Woods, of Fort Calhoun, in the month of September, 1920, especially for use in the volume now in your hands. These statements may be safely relied upon, as he has made the subject a special study many years and has a larger number of valuable and interesting documents and relics from the foundations of the old fort and surrounding buildings, perhaps, than any other living man. His narrative is as follows:]

There were perhaps forty cellars and foundations visible at the old fort before the lands were plowed up into fields and wagon roads made. There was a fur-trading station here and it was guarded by a dozen or more soldiers, a thing that we never quite understood why the Government would protect private interests in that expensive manner. When we commenced investigating the subject of this fort, we asked the Government authorities about this feature and were simply told that the fort was established in 1820 and abandoned in 1826. We attempted to get a history of this fort to please Governor Furnas, and make a school history of it. A few years later the State Historical Society found a lot of papers in the hands of the grandson of Colonel Atkinson, and at great expense and much time, the click of typewriters was heard for more than ten days in compiling from such papers and other sources the story of the fort. The writer had much to do in assisting in this work. Only a few years ago the grandson of Colonel Atkinson and one of his sons from Fort Crook were here. The Government sent him and another son from New York to our 1919 centennial celebration at Fort Calhoun. Fine portraits of the various members of the Atkinson family were donated to us here and suitably framed. These were given to the public schools. It has been definitely learned that Atkinson and sons came here in 1819 and left in 1827. The Government has changed their dates to correspond to these dates.

The powder house of this fort Lieutenant Dudley saw in 1854—a building eight by ten feet of limestone walls two feet thick. This the pioneers later burned into lime and we found the big padlock belonging to the building, in August, 1920. The flagstaff, a number of my neighbors told me, was for several years standing, but only a few feet high. It stood in front of the powder house, but was later destroyed entirely.

Jacob Miller, a Mexican soldier, told me most of the stone hearths were also collected for lime, or taken away for various uses, and that he himself took the brick from over twenty cellars and sold them to farmers and others. Probably twenty cellars and foundations can still be found in this September (1920), also hundreds of buttons and gun flints are still to be found. September 23, 1920, a man found a brass gun trigger. Cupboard latches, wagon irons, wrought hand-forged nails are to be picked up now by the dozens, after many hundreds have been taken away

from the foundations. In the '50s it was learned that the officers were buried on the hill west of town. The owner of the land then wanted to plow and came to me and together we dug up the remains of two that slept in my corncrib for over a year till the Government sent me an officer from St. Louis, when we removed three more from the grounds and shipped all to Fort McPherson to the State Military Cemetery.

Only a few years ago more bodies were discovered in our very streets, and they were buried in the city cemetery and the government sent me a fine tombstone for them, bearing the inscription "*Unknown American Soldiers.*"

They made 90,000 brick the first year the fort was established; these were produced about a half mile west of the fort.

On October 23, 1822, two men on horseback met a steamboat and started for a trip of 780 miles to St. Louis for Peruvian bark (quinine) for 720 sick men in camp at Fort Calhoun.

In March, 1823, men were ordered to build the Council House, half a mile west of the fort, on the hill. This was a large two-story log cabin with a shingled roof, plank floors and brick chimney.

No large bodies of Indians could come near the fort proper.

In September, 1822, they reported four hewed log buildings, shingle roof and brick chimneys in all making eighty-eight rooms. The officers were to have windows nine feet long.

In October, 1823, a new term of school was commenced. January, 1822, they sent for blank music books. They sent \$500 to Philadelphia for books to come via New Orleans.

Lime was made and stone quarried at Long's camp, at old Fort Lesa, now known as Rockport, four miles down the Missouri River.

The courtmartials and punishments were something wonderful.

Lewis and Clark camped in 1804 one mile north of the fort. The duel grounds were a half mile south of that famous camp of Lewis and Clark.

CHAPTER XV

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

POPULATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY—HARD WINTER OF 1856-57—
ORIGINAL VILLAGE PLATS—MARKETS AT VARIOUS TIMES—DAYS OF
MOURNING—GARFIELD, GRANT AND MCKINLEY.

POPULATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

At various periods the population in Washington County has been as follows: In 1855 it had a total population of 207; in 1860 it had reached 1,249; in 1870 it was 4,452; in 1880 it was 8,631. The last three United States census returns gave Washington County the subjoined figures, by townships and villages:

	1890	1900	1910
Arlington Township	1,167	1,378	1,380
Blair Township	1,443	1,011	645
Cuming City Township	665	638	613
De Soto Township	277	370	313
Fontanelle Township	803	759	766
Fort Calhoun Township	1,187	1,495	1,447
Grant Township	926	866	775
Herman Township	827	996	978
Lincoln Township	856	850	791
Richland Township	1,000	1,179	1,292
Sheridan Township	649	575	546
Blair City	2,069	2,970	2,584
Arlington Village	412	579	645
Fort Calhoun Village .....	...	346	324
Herman Village	319	321	345
Kennard Village .....	...	275	319
Totals	11,869	13,086	12,788

The returns for the 1920 United States census are not yet made public by townships and precincts, hence cannot be given in this connection.

ORIGINAL VILLAGE PLATS

Since the organization of Washington County the following original village platting have been executed, a number of which have long since been defunct:

DE SOTO, platted in section 27, township 18, range 12, by an act of the Legislature, March, 1855, having been surveyed out the autumn before by Dr. John Glover, Gen. J. B. Robinson, Potter C. Sullivan, E. P. Stout, William Clancy.

FORT CALHOUN was platted in sections 11 and 12, township 12, range 17. See its village history elsewhere.

COFFMAN, platted in section 31, township 17, range 13; it is a siding on the "Omaha" railway line, but not a place of importance.

WASHINGTON, platted in section 32, township 17, range 11, and is now an enterprising town and important station on the Northwestern Railway.

KENNARD, platted in section 5, township 17, range 11, is an excellent town today.

BLAIR, platted in sections 11 and 12, in township 18, range 11. It was platted by the officers of the Northwestern Railway Company (old F. E. & M. V.).

TYSON, platted in section 15, township 19, range 11; it is simply a railway siding.

HERMAN, platted in section 30, township 20, range 11, and was the result of the construction of the railway.

DALE, platted in section 26, township 17, range 10. Today there is a siding and a grain elevator at this point.

BOWEN, platted in section 14, in township 17, range 10.

VACOMA was platted in section 7, township 19, range 10. A county store is now located at that point today.

FLETCHER, platted in section 32, township 20, range 10. This also has a general store at this time.

TALBASTA, platted in sections 26 and 27, in township 19, range 9, It is a small hamlet with a store.

FONTANELLE, platted in sections 8, 9 and 17, by the old Quincy Company, is situated in township 18, range 9. It now has a postoffice and store.

ADMAH, platted in section 34, township 20, range 9.

ARLINGTON, platted as Bell Creek, in section 12, township 17, range 9.

ORUM, platted in section 10, township 18, range 10.

CUMING CITY, platted in sections 34 and 35, township 19, range 11. A large part of this village plat has been vacated.

HUDSON was another early platting, in the extreme northeastern part of this county. It was one of the early paper towns and had much pioneer notoriety. It was heavily advertised in the East, and many lots sold at good prices. Even to this day, it is related, there are now and then inquiries from the far East about the town which has long since been in the midst of excellent farms. No trace of a village is to be seen—corn and wheat fields are there to be seen today.

The location of this much-talked-of "Town" was in the north half of sections 26 and 27, township 20, range 11, now within Herman Civil Township. It was platted and offered for sale by one William E. Walker, a schemer of the Eastern States.

MARKETS AT VARIOUS TIMES

The following will show the reader of history the prices that prevailed in this county at various dates, beginning when they were about at the lowest ebb since the settlement of the county—in 1889:

Blair Quotations: Wheat—No. 2, 55c; No. 3, 55c; corn, 20c; barley, 35c; oats, 15c; rye, 30c.

Butter, 15c to 20c; eggs, 15c; new potatoes, 20c; onions, 25c; hogs, \$3.40 to \$3.55 per cwt., live weight; steers, \$2.50 to \$3.50; cows, \$1.50 to \$2.00; chickens, per dozen, \$1.50 to \$2.00.

It should be stated that merchandise purchased at the stores at the date above given was as low in proportion—calico, 5c to 7c; grain sacks, 25c each; good factory cloth, 9c per yard. Sugar was retailing at twenty pounds for the dollar. Farm machinery was never sold at a lower rate than between 1888 and 1893.

PRESENT (1920) PRICES

Eggs, 40c; butter, 60c to 70c; hogs, \$14 to \$15; cattle, \$14 to \$15.60; wheat, \$2.51 to \$2.54; corn, \$1.56 to \$1.59; oats, 71c to 76c; potatoes, \$3.00 per bushel; beans, \$7.00; chickens, per pound, 30c; sugar, 29c; coffee, 50c to 66c; grain sacks, 90c; calico, 35c; factory cloth (good), 38c. Farm machinery was never higher in price than at this date. The same is true of shoes and clothing, fully three times as high as in 1889. But on the other hand, in 1889 land in this county was not over \$100 an acre but today it sells from that figure up to \$300 and even \$400 per acre, when it will be parted with at all.

HARD WINTER OF 1856-57

A local writer thus describes that never-to-be-forgotten winter:

"The winter of 1856-57 found the settlers of Washington County little prepared for its hardships. The winters of 1855 and 1856 had been remarkably pleasant and mild and it was supposed by the few white residents of the county at that time that that was a fair sample of the Nebraska winters. The houses were generally of a temporary character, many of them having been built the summer before of new cottonwood lumber, which material makes beautiful "open work" after a few days' exposure to the sun, rendering the building cool and airy for summer use, but not so pleasant for winter. Little or no shelter had been prepared for stock and as there was a dearth of feed cattle were allowed to wander here and there through the small patches of breaking finding an occasional stalk of sod corn with which to astonish their stomachs. No one was provided with wood for more than a few days' use. Provisions were very scarce and money scarcer. Such was the condition of things when the sun went down on the evening of the thirtieth of November, 1856. A light snow was falling and had been for an hour, but the air was mild and pleasant with a light wind. During the night the wind increased to a terrific gale; the weather grew intensely cold and the air was filled with a driving snow which was forced into the houses through a thousand and one crevices, covering beds, chairs, tables, stoves, etc., with a cold mantle of white. The day dragged by with the wind surging and roaring and the air so thick with cutting, blinding snow that one could not see a house five feet distant; thus rendering it impossible for the stock to be fed, as a man could not find his way back to the house after leaving it. Several made the attempt and perished in consequence, their bones being found when the snow melted the next spring, in some instances within short distances of their homes. Night settled upon the country cold and dreary and another day of suffering dawned and passed without the least prospect of relief.

A second night and third day passed by during which the wind seemed to have lost none of its fury while the snow seemed to come from some inexhaustible source, whirling, eddying and driving; piling and drifting in the houses to a depth of two or three feet. As the evening of the third day came on the anxious settlers were rejoiced to find that the storm was gradually losing its force. Another miserable night passed and the fourth day dawned. The wind had gone down and the sun rose bright and clear upon a brilliant, glistening, dazzling sea of snow stretched away as far as the vision extended, covering the ground to a depth of three or four feet on the level, while in the ravines it was drifted in places to the depth of twenty feet. Snow was found as late as June 1st

the next spring. The storm having subsided the settlers turned out to care for their stock. In many places stables were built down in the ravines and were so completely covered with snow that some time elapsed before they could be found and the horses they sheltered—and very effectually, too—dug out. Great difficulty was also experienced in gathering together the roaming cattle, and many perished in the storm."

DAYS OF MOURNING

Every county has its seasons of deep mourning over the death of some honored citizen, or for some state and national character claimed by death in some exceptional manner, as was the cases when Presidents Garfield, Grant and McKinley passed from earth's shining circles; two by the hand of an assassin and the other by a dreaded, incurable disease.

Some interest always clusters around the ceremonies of memorial services held for the nation's departed, and the facts as chronicled at the date should be preserved that our children and children's children may know of these days of sorrow upon the part of a civilized, Christianized people.

ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

Tuesday following the receipt of the sad news of the death of President James A. Garfield, September 19, 1881, Mayor Perkins issued the following proclamation at Blair, this county:

"Great calamity has befallen the nation. The assassin's bullet has accomplished its mission and James Abraham Garfield is no more. He died last evening at 10:05. As the chief magistrate of a great people, it is proper that due respect should be shown the illustrious dead.

"I, therefore, call upon the citizens of Blair and vicinity to meet at the park at 3 P. M. to take such action as the sad event requires and that business be suspended during the meeting. I further request that at the hour named the bells of the several churches toll.

(Signed) "ALONZO PERKINS,
"Mayor."

The preliminary meeting resulted in the appointment of a committee (to make arrangements for a memorial) of the following citizens: J. S. Bowen, Theodore Haller and J. H. Hugate.

At the appointed time many came in from the country and the town people usually turned out at the park. It was estimated that 1,500 were present long before the hour of 2 P. M. The Grand Army of the Republic met at the barracks and from there they marched to the park, over 100 strong in a single column, with colors draped, muffled drums and arms reversed, each veteran wearing a badge of mourning on his left arm. Theodore Haller called the meeting to order and Warren Billings, of Grant precinct, was elected chairman. Rev. John Patrick, of Herman, made a very touching and appropriate prayer, followed by G. W. Wainright in a forty minute address in which he, with signal ability, reviewed the lessons of moral responsibility to be evolved from the death of President Garfield.

Hon. Lorenzo Crouse next spoke upon his political life. He spoke without notes and his words were dictated by a feeling that frequently brought tears from the eyes of the hearers. He had been a personal friend of the lamented president.

Gen. John S. Bowen then gave a short address upon the loss to the people, followed by Rev. J. P. Andrew, upon the moral and Christian

character of Garfield. Last on the program was L. W. Osborn, who gave an able address upon the military career of Garfield. The exercises closed with an address by George Bigelow, of Ohio. It was an eloquent speech and well received. Those present will long remember the solemn memorial services in Blair for President Garfield, second president to be assassinated in the United States.

ON THE DEATH OF GEN. U. S. GRANT

August 8, 1885, the loyal citizens everywhere throughout the country assembled in mourning for the death of President Ulysses S. Grant, who died after many weary months, caused by a throat affection. He was a great sufferer but bore all his pain with fortitude and patience.

The Blair memorial services over this great military chieftain and honored ex-president, were observed in an appropriate manner. An immense throng of people lined the streets early in the forenoon. Various societies and organizations joined in the procession, some in uniform, and took up the line of march under command of J. S. Cook, of the Grand Army Corps, headed by a martial band composed of William Swihart, James Denny and J. W. Boggs. Arriving at the park, there was a short address by Judge Crounse, also by Messrs. Davis and Halmar, all of which were listened to by a large multitude. After appropriate resolutions had been offered the exercises ended.

The business places in Blair were all closed, flags were at half-mast and draped in mourning. At the close, all retired orderly to their respective homes, to perpetuate the memory of one to whom the country still owes a debt of gratitude.

ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY

The assassination of President McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, New York, in September, 1901, caused a very deep-seated sorrow throughout the entire country—north, south, east and west. At Herman, this county, appropriate memorial services were held in the Baptist Church. Reverend Patrick spoke. The saloons of the country were then running under full sanction of the law of the land, but on that day all were closed out of respect for the fallen president. Indeed, all business houses were closed from 1 to 4 o'clock P. M.

At Blair there was no regular memorial exercises in a united form, but the Pilot, the local newspaper, published a bulletin each day for about a week prior to the final passing of the beloved president, giving the physicians exact reports at certain hours of the days and nights. He died at 2:15 A. M. Saturday, September 14, 1901. The following day (Sabbath) the ministers in the various churches of Blair and other points in Washington County, made appropriate remarks concerning the death of the beloved President.

CHAPTER XVI

INDIAN TROUBLES

The following reminiscence by pioneer J. H. Peters was read before the Old Settlers Association of Dodge County at one of their early annual meetings. It relates to "The Pawnee War" and reads thus:

I arrived at Fontanelle, a part of which was then Dodge County, April 28, 1855, after a long and tedious voyage on the ill-fated steamer Mary Cole, which sunk a total wreck twenty miles below Omaha. I was a member of the Quincy colony that located and settled in Fontanelle. When we arrived we found men engaged in the survey of a townsite and after we came it was determined to lay out fifty twenty-six-acre lots around the town on three sides so that each member of the company could have a small farm adjoining the town.

Indians were then very numerous and by this arrangement each member of the colony could live in town and cultivate his farm. On May 1, 1855, the colony made a division of town lots, timber claims and a quarter section of land near town. The division was by lot. All went on peacefully about a month, when 100 Indians came yelling and running their horses and making war-like demonstrations and stayed around about two hours. They did no violence, only alarmed the settlers. All went well until the last of June while Porter and his wife and George Demoree were coming home from breaking prairie on Bell Creek; on Saturday evening they were overtaken by a heavy rain storm and camped. On Sunday morning they heard heavy firing of guns near a lake a half mile south of them. They thought it was the Fontanelles down there shooting fish as that was a favorite sport, so they all went down to see them. When they arrived they found a large number of Indians on horseback and one rode up to Demoree and took off his hat. Demoree could not get his hat back from the Indians; their demonstrations were unkind. Demoree said he would go to his wagon and get his gun and shoot that Indian. They all started for the wagon; when they had gone but a short distance an Indian rode hastily up and raised his gun and shot Demoree through the head, and Porter, who was near in range turned that way to look at the Indian and the same ball pierced his breast and they both fell dead. The wife, while bending over her dying husband saw a hole in his breast and the blood rapidly gushing forth; while in that position an Indian rode by and with a spear pierced her hip and motioned for her to "go to white man." She saw the Indians scalping Demoree—they did not scalp her husband—then she ran towards Fontanelle, throwing off all of her heavy skirts and all her clothing but her dress so that she could run faster. I, and others saw her coming and went out to meet her. Among others present was John Cramer, the man they were working for. She threw her arms around Cramer's neck and cried out: "My God, the Indians have killed my dear husband George," then she fainted away, but upon coming to herself again told the sad story. Whereupon excitement ran high in every breast, the men all rushing around for their guns; the women rushing around to get their children together.

A wagon was soon ready to convey the smaller children, while the women and older children walked hurriedly up the hill, to the remainder

of the settlement. When we got a half mile away the Indians got around the horses we had left, but saw the white men coming with guns in hand so only had time to rob a tent and cut it loose. They had taken some skillets and pans and when so closely followed they threw them all away and ran through the river to evade the pursuers into thick brush and thus escaped unhurt. We then sent out and brought home the dead men. A council was held to see what we had better do and it was decided to send two men to Omaha to the governor who, with General Thayer, hurried around and got thirty men with Captain Moore and Lieutenant Reaves and on their arrival we mustered thirty men with Captain Kline and Lieutenant Patterson. In a few days General Thayer and Secretary Cuming came up to review the little army and see how the war progressed. General Thayer said to our men:

"All you men who have horses put them in service for we cannot keep these livery horses at five dollars per day; and you men of a family must board yourselves; you shall be amply paid, for the Governor and I have to provide these single men on our own responsibility"; so we furnished horses, wagons and boarding through the campaign. We mustered at ten and four and patroled the camp which took in all the settlers. Some gave alarm one night, just after dark, that Indians were seen and fired upon by our soldiers going to a spring in a hollow, northwest of the Fontanelle house; then the drum beat the alarm, all the families rushed to the Fontanelle house for the fort. I grabbed my two little girls in my arms, my wife took Jim and the ax and Sam carried the musket to the "fort." Mr. Whittier brought his family; he had no gun but brought a pitchfork; then he borrowed a gun of the landlord and hurried to the ranks; all was dark and great excitement prevailed. The soldiers were forming line on the higher ground, near the hotel, and the squad of us were hunting the Indians and were observed by the men in ranks and mistaking us for the Indians, they had their guns to their faces with orders to "make ready," "take aim," and the captain discovered it was his men and did not fire on us. That was only one of the many alarms, but after drill the "boys" would get furloughs to hunt and fish. Lieutenant Reaves was the champion deer hunter, he nearly always shot one or two each time out. The men said he could shoot them as well where there wasn't any as where they were thick! The two hard winters of deep snow nearly exterminated the deer.

The Omaha company went home and we all went to preparing for winter and had no further trouble with the Indians until 1858. In June that year, the Pawnees, 5,000 strong, were going to join the Omahas way up the Elkhorn and there both tribes would join and hunt buffalo in the Sioux country. They camped near the lakes southeast of where the Village of Nickerson station now is, for several days. I was amused to see the lake full of children like a pond full of ducks. After a few days they passed on, but as soon as they got eight or ten miles up the river they began robbing the settlers. A bachelor named Thomas they tied in his cabin, robbed him of his provisions and \$100 in money and left him tied in the house. They drove away his work oxen and went on to Cuming Creek. There they found a large drove of cattle in care of the Parks boys; they compelled them to drive them up for them to slaughter, and when the boys saw they were to kill all the cattle they said: "Let us go and get more cattle," but when they got away they ran toward Fontanelle and several families came down in the night and told Captain Kline how the Indians were destroying the settlements above and north of Fontanelle. In the morning Captain Kline was around mus-

tering his army into service; when he came to me he said: "Peters, the Indians are driving out all the settlers—we want to go and start them out." I replied: "As soon as I eat my breakfast and load my musket I am ready." He said: "Take me a lunch along for we will have to go to Cumings Creek at least and we will drive around to get you." So the teams were soon ready and we in pursuit of the Indians. We went on till we came to Logan Creek where we had to cross the men on a large tree fallen across the creek and swim the horses, and put ropes to the wagons. At noon we reached Cuming Creek; we found no cattle, but of bones, heads and horns a plenty. There we lunched and looked for the herd, but found no trace of them and thought they had driven them along so they could have plenty of meat.

We started for West Point and about five miles out we saw the whole tribe in camp, on the west side of Elkhorn River. They had tents. At West Point we were greeted with a right hearty welcome. The Indian foragers had been there. They tried to compel a man to take his oxen from a wagon, saying: "Heap Indians must have heap meat." The only way he could get rid of them was by giving them a fine heifer. The ladies of West Point hastened to get us our suppers. Messengers were sent over the river to bring in all the settlement and before sunrise all were in West Point and most of their valuables, too. The Indians did not know we were there after them until after breakfast. Then about twenty came on the trail of the settlers and their cattle. We held a council as to how to protect West Point and the settlement at DeWitt, five miles above. The agreement was to send Lieutenant Patterson and twenty-five men to that settlement and, Captain Kline in command of the remainder of the army to protect West Point, and in a few moments were were enroute by wagons. On arrival we found the settlers unalarmed, having heard nothing, but having seen a few foragers that morning, they readily believed the report. In a few moments we saw eleven Indians approaching on foot, all having guns or bows.

They were more than a mile away, so we again councilled. We would leave the old man Moore and his neighbor at the gate to entice them into the house, and we conceal ourselves in the kitchen and when the Indians came in we rush upon them and take them prisoners, not to shoot them, and I think twenty-five of us boys could tie eleven Indians. The plan was complete. The Indians came in and wanted powder of the old man and in one minute we were at the door, Lieutenant Patterson at front with Thomas Canaga by his side. John Evans and I came next. Patterson grabbed the door knob to shut it, but the Indians seeing they were trapped made a desperate rush for the door and came with such force as to tramp Patterson and Canaga under foot, and Evans and myself grasped our guns with both hands and by the boys at our backs pushing on our shoulders, we held them back for a while. They made a terrible "Oh, Ouh, Ouh." Part of the men came in at the kitchen door. They were knocked down and while we held sway at the front door, I heard two shots fired; the third hit my left arm near the shoulder and it was paralyzed. My gun went down and the blood flowed from my arm freely. Evans saw this and while I was still holding an Indian back as he was passing me, Evans shot him in the breast and he fell at my side. As the rest of the Indians ran out over the dying Indian and Patterson and Canaga, the boys stepped back a few steps and everyone was his own captain, shouting, "Shoot that Indian," and they nearly all got some shot as they ran away. They went first to the right, then to the left to avoid bullets, but when fifty yards away, they ran straight. One Madison

laid his gun on the fence and as soon as an Indian quit going crooked, he dropped him dead. Those who could, got away in great haste; some of the wounded hid in the brush on Plum Creek, but the rest ran forward. After the skirmish Patterson and Canaga got up. Thomas, the man who the Indians had tied in his own house and robbed, came along in time to meet the dying Indian at the door and he struck him with his fist, cursing him for stealing his money.

One Indian gun was picked up by Mr. Sprick, who gave it to me, as I was the only white man shot. While I was getting my arm bandaged the families of the settlement were getting stock and teams together to leave in haste. The soldier boys gathered up two dying Indians and put them in the wagon. There was still another too heavy to load. We soon hurried back to West Point, but soon one of the Indians died. The boys yelled to Patterson that one of the Indians died, and the order came to throw him in the creek (we were then on Plum Creek). As the other Indian saw what we did with his comrade, he feigned to be dead, and we had orders to throw him into the creek, which we did, and as he commenced swimming out, one of the company fired a charge of buckshot which caused his death. We were then at West Point and the whole town and settlement determined to leave, fearing that the Pawnees would turn in and wipe the whites all out. We had but little ammunition and knew the Pawnees had many brave warriors. Before the families could get loaded up our company was hurrying for Fontanelle, some men hurrying the cattle after the army and the wagons. Then the men in charge of the cattle looked back and saw the wagons stop and were sure the Indians were killing the families and they then threw off their shoes and ran after the soldiers, letting the cattle run on the prairie. The men ran until they were exhausted, but could not overtake the soldiers so they saw a flag pond nearby and there they hid with their mouths out of the water until after dark, when they came forth but feared to go on the road for fear the Indians would kill them, so they went through the prairie barefooted to Mr. Hinerman's on Clark Creek.

He took them in, fed and lodged them and brought them to Fontanelle the next day. When the families came up to the cattle they drove them along, arriving safe without seeing a single Indian. But two young men hastened to tell the news at Fontanelle, of the battle with the Indians and they feared all would be killed soon. When we arrived at Fontanelle those who remained at home railed on us for killing any Indians, as it would excite the blood-thirsty savages. Some families loaded their valuables and left that night for Omaha; some went out part way and camped. We gathered the rest into the old college building and I assured them no Indian would come in range of a white man's gun and we kept a strong guard all that night. In the morning the excitement had cooled off, but those who went to Omaha saw (or said they did) the college building in flames, when they got ten miles out of Fontanelle. That wild report caused an alarm in Omaha and some went over to Council Bluffs for safety. Then Governor Black and General Thayer gathered an army of 300 men, with cavalry and artillery, determined to wipe the Pawnees out, and when General Thayer arrived in Fontanelle he congratulated the soldiers and said: "I give you the greatest praise for scourging them yourselves. I have often been called on to scourge them, but before I can do it they raise the white flag, then if I should scourge them I should be called a murderer." He also gave the citizens of Fontanelle a Fourth of July address while he was waiting for Governor Black and reinforcements, and he finally arrived and the army pursued until they

overtook them. There was no bloodshed, but there were many things of interest, including a big pow-wow and a settlement of damages of the war.

INDIANS

At the time of the now famous expedition of Lewis and Clark, which was organized in 1803, but which did not start out on its tour of exploration until May, 1804, the Indians inhabiting what is now Nebraska, were the Missouris, Otoes, Omahas and the Pawnees. There were other tribes in Nebraska at the time, but not in this portion. Since the organization of Nebraska Territory in 1854, no tribes have made their headquarters in Washington County. Up to 1855 a few Omahas were still lingering around this county. Big Elk, a chief, was the last Indian to die in this county. He died and was buried in 1854, near Fort Calhoun. The early history of Washington County was not without interesting Indian incidents. Among these incidents should not be forgotten the celebrated council held at Fort Calhoun, near the present southern boundary line of the county, between Captains Lewis and Clark on the one side, and the deputation of six chiefs from the Missouris and Otoes on the other. This council was held August 3, 1804, and established friendly relations between the expedition and the Indian nations represented thereat.

It was claimed by citizens at Council Bluffs many years ago, that this council was held near their city, but there is no doubt from the best of evidence that such treaty was held at Fort Calhoun.

It was in 1819 that the government established Fort Atkinson, afterward Fort Calhoun, on this same spot of ground. As a regular military post this fort was abandoned in 1827. To show that this council was actually held here it may be stated that a letter was written by Father De Smet, bearing date December 9, 1867, in reply to a letter of inquiry by N. Ramsey, secretary of the Historical Society, of St. Louis. Father De Smet replied as follows: "During the years 1838 and 1839, I resided opposite what is now called the City of Omaha. In 1839 I stood on the bluffs on which the old fort was built in 1819; some rubbish and remains of the fort were then visible, and some roots of asparagus were then visible in the old garden. Fort Atkinson was located where now stands the Town of Fort Calhoun, Nebraska Territory, about sixteen miles in a straight line above the City of Omaha, and forty miles by river. I met Captain Joseph and Capt. John LaBarge, and proposed the question of the former site of Fort Atkinson, in order to test the accuracy of my memory, and they confirmed it in every particular."

CHAPTER XVII

BLAIR TOWNSHIP AND CITY

BOUNDARY—STREAMS—RAILROAD LINES—POPULATION—GENERAL FEATURES—DRAINAGE DITCH—CITY OF BLAIR—PLATTING—COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—RAILROADS—POSTOFFICE AND MUNICIPAL HISTORY—FACTORIES, ETC.

Blair Township, carved from other precinct territory when John I. Blair built the railroad through the county in the later '60s. It is now bounded on the north by Cuming City Township, on the east by the Missouri River and De Soto Township, on the south by De Soto and Richland townships, on the west by Lincoln Township.

Its streams include Pappillion Creek, besides there are numerous lesser streams that drain and water the goodly farming section.

The railroads of this township are the various divisions of the great Chicago & Northwestern system, including the "Omaha" line running from Omaha to Sioux City and on to St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The lower end of a great drainage ditch coming down from the northwest, courses through the northeastern sections of Blair Township.

The population of this township according to the last three United States census enumerations was: In 1890 (including City of Blair), 2,069; in 1900 it was 2,970 and in 1910, 2,584. It is now about 3,400.

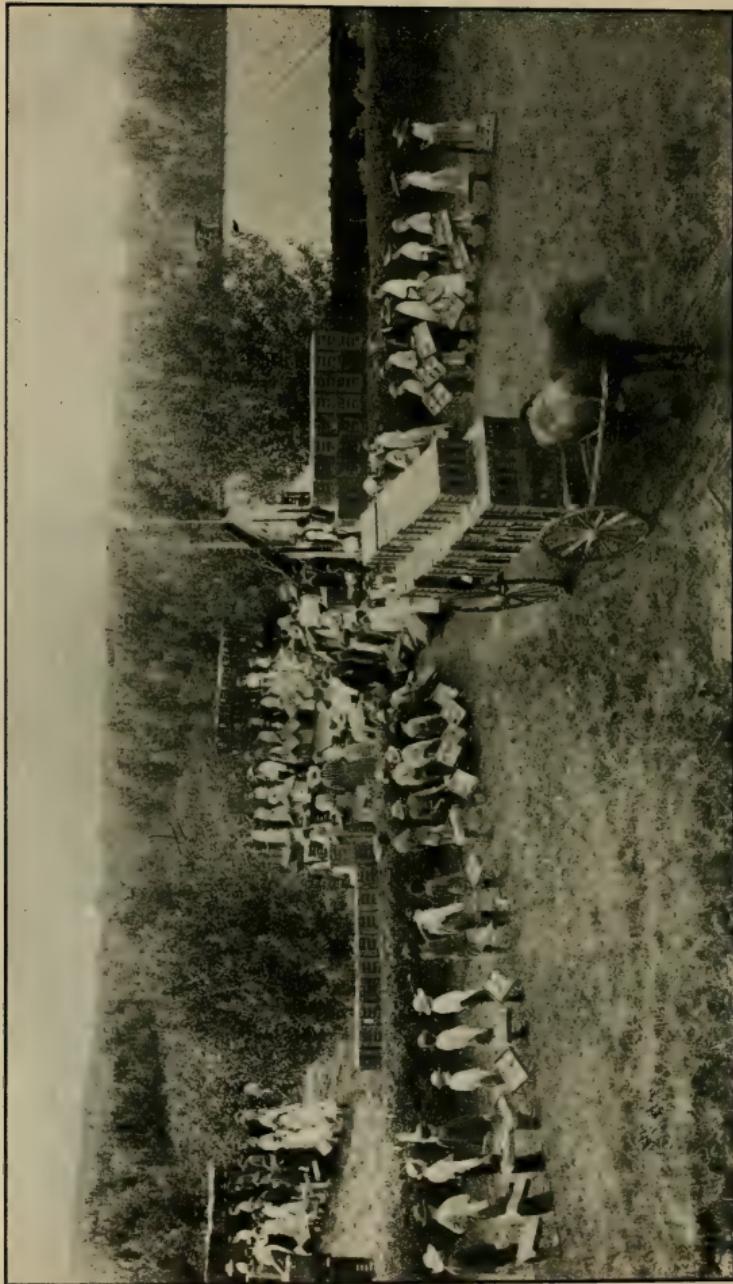
It is an excellent agricultural district and the hundreds of fine farm-homes with modern improvements are indeed a charming sight for the traveler to behold as he glides along over good roads in his automobile.

THE CITY OF BLAIR

The beautiful City of Blair, the county seat of Washington County, has a history dating back to 1869. It is situated about two miles from the western shore of the Missouri River, and its altitude is eighty feet above the low water mark of that stream. It is in latitude 41 degrees and 30 minutes. The first of the white race to permanently locate here were three brothers—Jacob, Alexander and T. M. Carter—who set their stakes here in the month of May, 1855.

Blair was platted on a 1,705 acre tract of land purchased by that great railroad builder, John I. Blair. This land was bought from the three Carter brothers, James S. Stewart, William Temple and C. H. Beekman. Town lots were sold at public auction to the amount of \$61,000 worth the first day of the auction which was March 10, 1869. The highest price of any single lot was \$350. John I. Blair being in reality the owner of the land and controlled the railroad operations was very naturally the person for whom the town should be named. In fact, Mr. Blair has a number of townsite namesakes—Blair, New Jersey, his old home; Blairstown, Iowa, and Blair, Nebraska, as just shown.

The county seat was removed from Fort Calhoun to Blair the same year of the town's plattting—1869.



MT. HOPE FRUIT FARM

(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

RAILROADS

Blair was really a child of the railroad interests of the locality. In 1864 the Northern Nebraska Air-Line Railroad Company was organized, and three years later received a land grant of seventy-five sections of land, which grant was transferred to the old Sioux City & Pacific Company, during the same year, the company being composed of John S. Bowen and four other men. In 1868 John I. Blair and associates got control of the franchise, and in June, the people of Washington County voted at a special election to the Sioux City & Pacific Company \$75,000 in county bonds, and immediately thereafter Mr. Blair pushed the road forward across the Missouri from California Junction, and on through this county to Fremont, Nebraska, which point it reached December 1, 1868. From the date of Mr. Blair's purchase of the Carter property the



STREET SCENE, BLAIR

founding of Blair was almost a certainty. The old Sioux City & Pacific as well as the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, became the property (wheel within a wheel) of the great Chicago & Northwestern systems of railroads, and also the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha line, another road of the Northwestern system, gridironed this part of Nebraska. The latter crossing the line from California Junction to Fremont, at Blair, the same being constructed in 1871, from Omaha to Sioux City, through Fort Calhoun, De Soto, Blair, Herman on the north to Sioux City from which point it extends to the twin cities—Minneapolis and St. Paul.

With these lines of railway extending to terminal points in the great eastern, western, northern and southern cities, Blair very naturally has had the benefits of good transportation outlets.

FIRST EVENTS IN BLAIR

Blair was established in 1869 by John I. Blair. The first postmaster was Charles E. Laughton.

The county seat of Washington County was removed from Fort Calhoun to Blair in 1869.

The first building erected on the townsite was the "railroad store" occupied by Messrs. Clark and Donovan. It was in this building that the first really permanent store was established by J. J. Adams.

The first family to settle in Blair was probably that of C. H. Eggleston, who arrived in December, 1868.

J. E. West & Company were also among the pioneer firms to engage in general merchandising.

Other dealers included H. C. Riordan, hardware, from De Soto; A. Castetter & Company established themselves in collection, real estate and banking. Jesse T. Davis and Dr. F. H. Longley moved from De Soto in April, 1869.

The first child born in Blair was Henry Seirt, Jr., son of Henry Seirt and wife, May 21, 1869. The first marriage was that of Hans Grimm to Miss Lizzie Harder.

The first Independence Day celebration in Blair was in the first year of its existence, John S. Bowen being orator on the occasion, while Dr. F. H. Longley was marshal.

The first republican political convention in Blair was held in the autumn of 1870, Elam Clark presiding.

Blair was incorporated as a town in 1869 and as a city in 1872.

The earliest public school was taught in 1869, by Sarah E. Kibby, but at the same place a school had been previously taught before the founding of Blair, by Miss Lida M. Newell, in 1868.

The first newspaper in Blair was the Register, established in May, 1869, by Hilton & Son. (See press chapter.)

The first sermon preached in Blair was in the summer of 1869 by Rev. Jacob Adriance, in a car at the railroad station, previous to the removal of the church from Cuming City.

The first Baptist sermon preached was in April, 1869, by Rev. E. G. O. Groat, on the platform of the railway station.

MUNICIPALITY

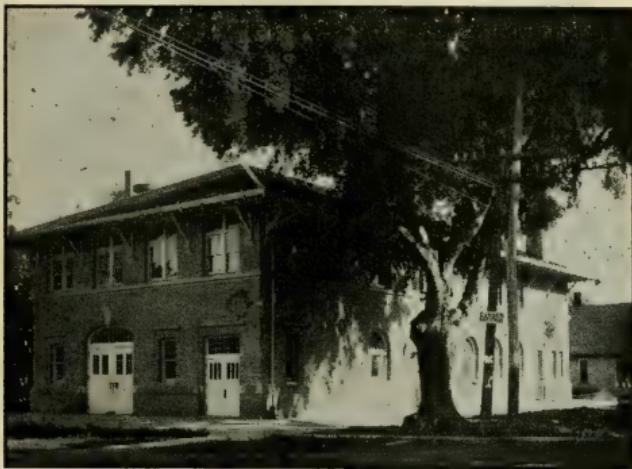
Blair at first was incorporated as a "town" in 1869 by the county commissioners. The original officers were: J. H. Post, chairman; Alexander Reed, Dr. F. H. Longley, C. B. Herman and M. V. Wilson, trustees.

In September, 1872, the "town" became a "city" under a new incorporation proceedings—a city of the second class—when the following were elected: Mayor, J. H. Hungate; councilmen, William Maher, E. M. Denny, John W. Tew and M. Gallagher; police judge, John S. Bowen; marshal, Rice Arnold.

The mayors of Blair City have been as follows: J. H. Hungate, 1875; F. W. Kenny, 1876. Blair municipal records do not show the mayors from 1876 to 1883, but from that year on to the present they are shown to have been: W. D. Haller, 1883; V. G. Lantry, 1884; W. C. Walton, 1885 to 1889; W. D. Haller, 1889 to 1891; A. C. Jones, 1891 to 1893; J. McQuarrie, 1893; E. A. Stewart, 1894; Perry Selden, 1895; M. D. Bedal, 1896; A. C. Jones, 1897; John McQuarrie, 1899; J. H. Flock, 1900; W. D. Haller, 1901-2; Clark O'Hanlon, 1903; L. A. Williams, 1904; W. G. Garrison, 1905-06; W. D. Haller, 1907; C. R. Mead, 1908; W. R. Williams, 1909-10; J. F. White, 1911; W. D. Haller, 1912 to 1915; J. F. White, 1915; Magnus Johnson, 1916; S. W. Chambers, 1917; J. S. Roberts, 1918; Henry Christensen, 1919-20.

Blair has an excellent system of water works and the quality is second to none in Nebraska, by frequent rests made at Lincoln. Two deep wells afford plenty of water. One of these wells is 171 feet deep and a later one is much deeper than this one. Water is forced to a large cemented reservoir on the high bluff to the south of the city proper. This affords a pressure, at the curbing in the business part of the place, of something over 100 pounds per square inch. These water works were first installed in 1885, or thereabouts, and improved and extended from time to time as the city grew, really rebuilt. The cost as shown in the several bond issues was \$34,000.

In 1917 the city took over the private corporation of the old Nebraska Gas and Light Company, the exact date being September 2, 1917. This cost the city \$35,000, for which bonds were issued, running twenty years.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

CITY HALL, BLAIR

The water and light plants are now combined and run by the city, with T. H. Trenberth as superintendent.

A fire department exists and sixty (the limit) members of a volunteer fire company guard well the matter of fires, when one occurs, so that loss is slight in this direction. The department is finely equipped with modern appliances, including 3,000 feet of workable hose, plenty of long and shorter ladders, four hose-carts, a new Ford fire truck, and a large capacity chemical engine, just installed into use.

Street paving commenced in 1920 and the contract was let to an Omaha firm to lay a cement-base brick paving over the streets of Blair during 1920-21 to the amount of sixty-seven blocks, or equal to about four and one-half miles.

Other city improvements at this date is the construction of 82,180 feet (fifteen and one-half miles) of sanitary sewer, of which the lot-owners pay about \$66,000 and the city pays \$25,000.

A very handsome, well-built city building was erected of pressed brick in 1912. In this are kept the city offices, the fire department, and other city works, including water and light offices. It is just across the street south from the Government postoffice building.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

WARE FARM

PRESENT CITY OFFICERS

The 1920 city officers are these: Mayor, Henry Christensen; clerk, C. E. Krause; treasurer, R. G. Allen; chief of police, Samuel Stevens; chief of fire department, K. A. Petersen; health officer, Dr. E. R. Stewart; members of the city council, F. S. Bigelow, George Carmichael, L. A. Farnberg, Henry Grimm, J. E. Lutz, J. W. Newell and P. C. Sorensen.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—EARLY DEALERS, ETC.

The following shows the names of many of the business and professional men and women of Blair, the same all having been there prior to 1876 and a number were there from the earliest history of the place—1869-70.

The first real business house in the place was that of Herman Brothers, dry goods, and the next was Clark & Donovan, dealers in groceries and hardware, who later sold to John Adams. West & Lewis were early in dry goods business; also Ross & McBride. Drugs, by Haller & Lane and Jone Zehrung, later the Peterson-Zehrung firm. Matthiesen & Logan carried a stock of dry goods and groceries; M. C. Huyett, clothing; H. McBride, dry goods and groceries; Haller Brothers, dry goods and groceries; William Maher, in the last named line; R. W. Dawson, photographer; William McCormick, had a grocery store, and a dry goods and grocery was kept by E. Frederick. Hardwares were kept by H. C. Riordan & Kenny, and later Kenny & Stewart. Agricultural implements by Gus Lundt, Graves & Frederick; Charles Schurig, bakery; J. Nestel in same line; later another bakery was established by A. Casper. Boots and shoes were kept by Lewis Valentine. Miss Lantry, Mrs. W. C. Walton, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Sarah E. Higley and Mrs. R. W. Lawson, millinery.

Among the pioneer hotels in Blair are remembered these: Kelly Brothers, Martin Kloos, William Maher, William Carson, Mrs. A. M. Quimby, Mrs. E. E. Sketchley, George Seirt and Henry Seirt. Heinzerling and John Connell were the first to deal in harness goods. Butchers of the first five years in Blair's history were: Sheeley & Ervey, William O'Hara, William Miller, J. Hart, M. V. Wilson, John Connell, Bowen & Parks and John Parks. The grain dealers were Elam Clark & Son, C. C. Crowell and the Blair mill. The pioneer blacksmiths were John Tew, Frank Stanfield, Ed Cochrane and John H. Smith. The physicians were Drs. F. H. Longley, S. B. Taylor, S. H. Fawcett, C. Emerson Tenant, McLean, D. H. O'Linn, William H. Palmer. Lawyers included: Davis & Carrigan, later Carrigan & Osborne, W. C. Walton, B. F. Hilton, J. S. Bowen, M. Ballard, A. D. Brainard and J. W. Tucker. Real estate agents: Alexander Reed, Alonzo Perkins, A. Castetter. The early banker was A. Castetter.

The Blair City mill was completed about 1876. It was the property of H. B. Dexter, Eli H. Turton, V. G. Lantry, Messrs. Carter and Wortendyke.

In 1875 Blair dealers shipped out \$300,000 worth of cattle and hogs to the market places of the country.

1920 BUSINESS INTERESTS IN BLAIR

As the years come and go it will doubtless be of some interest to future readers of this work to know who all were engaged in various

business and professional callings in this sprightly city, now rapidly growing and destined ere long to become a much larger city—hence the subjoined business directory of today:

Automobile Garages—G. A. Rathmann, Van Huss-Antill, Walter Larsen, Lucien Haller, Arndt Hardware, George Corson, B. H. Holmes, S. J. Johnson, Jensen & Nielsen.

Attorneys—Grace Ballard, E. B. Carrigan, A. C. Debel, I. C. Eller, E. C. Jackson, John Lothrop, William J. Meher, Henry Mencke, D. Mumment, Clark O'Hanlon, Reed O'Hanlon.

Automobile Dealers—G. A. Rathmann, Van Huss-Antill, Walter Larsen, Lucien Haller, Arndt Hardware.

Abstract Firms—Ricker & Chambers, Ove T. Anderson, Claus Mencke.

Agricultural Implement Dealers—Smith Brothers, Peterson Brothers and the Farmers Co-operative Union.

Banks—The State Bank of Blair, Banking House of A. Castetter, Citizens State Bank and Farmers State Bank.

Barber Shops—C. E. McComb, Fred Nemetz, Charles Antrim, H. C. Petersen.

Bakeries—Hansen & Andersen, and Mrs. William Beyer & Son.

Blacksmith Shops—C. Molgaard Jensen, Miller Munk, R. M. Ludwick.

Clothing (exclusive)—James L. Pounds.

Cement Works—Crowell Lumber & Grain Company.

Cream Stations—T. H. Wright, Soren Rasmussen, J. C. Christensen, Frank Jenkins.

Drugs—Stewart Pharmacy, W. W. Witherby, and Ed Wolff.

Elevators—Crowell Lumber & Grain Company, Holmquist Grain & Lumber Company and the Farmers Co-operative Union.

Furniture—J. E. Campbell and J. I. Unruh.

Feed Stores—John McKay and John A. Rhoades.

Groceries—J. Mueller, H. J. Wimble, Jens Nielsen, A. Christensen.

General Merchandise—Sas Brothers, C. J. Beekman, Henry Christensen, "P. Z. The Shoe Man."

Hardwares—Thone & Farnberg, Julius Petersen, Arndt Hardware Co.

Hotels—The Clifton, T. G. Rodgers, proprietor.

Harness Goods—Gus Scheffler.

Ice Dealers—Axtell Brothers.

Jewelry Shops—H. Ollermann.

Lumber—Crowell Lumber & Grain Company, Christensen Lumber Company.

Livery—J. P. Everson.

Monumental Work—J. E. Lutz, S. W. Schmidt.

Meat Markets—Jens Nielsen, Alexander Swansen, A. Christensen, Brown & Kemner, Chris Hansen.

Millinery—Mrs. Willa M. Jenkins, Mrs. T. C. Hilton.

Mills (Flouring)—Blair Milling and Grain Company.

Newspapers—Tribune, Pilot, Enterprise and Danskeren. (See Press Chapter.)

Photographers—J. A. Kuhn, H. C. Olsen.

Picture Shows—The Home, C. J. Robinson, proprietor.

Produce Houses—Blair Produce Company.

Physicians—Drs. Morris Nielsen, L. J. Kilian, R. J. Murdoch, G. A. Langstaff, J. V. Hinchman, E. R. Stewart, W. H. Palmer.

Restaurants—S. H. Pounds, Ed Rann, M. Carlson.

Stock Dealers—Rathmann & McCracken, W. C. Allen.

Shoe Stores (exclusive)—Blair Shoe Company.

Shoe Repair Shops—Hansen Brenholdt, Hans Sorensen, J. E. Fischer.

Tailor Shops—A. F. Garske, J. P. Johnson.

Veterinary Surgeon—D. C. Peebles, Hammond & Tilden.

Music House—The Bee Hive.

Manufacturing Plants (Industries)—Blair Horse Collar Company, The Blair Canning Company, The Foolproof Spark Plug Company, The Porter Incubator Company, Liberty Stock Remedy Company, Haller Proprietary Company, Aye Brothers Seed House and Mount Hope Fruit Farm.



POSTOFFICE, BLAIR

Blair postoffice, now an office of the second class, was established in 1869 with John E. Lawton as the pioneer postmaster. There are now nine mail trains daily at Blair. This was made a free delivery office August 1, 1913; its present city carriers are Leslie R. Offen, John C. Anderson, Delmar C. Feer, with substitute Alfred N. Feer. The office force includes the following: Margaret McMillan, assistant postmaster; Bruce McMillan, Mrs. Eva Cook, clerks; Robert L. Widner, janitor; Mrs. Mary Nelson, charwoman.

There are four rural delivery routes extending out from Blair to the surrounding country. The carriers on these routes are at this date (1920): Howard Sutherland, James Reid, Raymond Hewitt and Cylde Allen.

The following list of postmasters serving at the Blair office is now to be seen preserved (with photographs of the postmasters), in the postmaster's office in the new Government building: John E. Lawton, Dr. Silas Fawcett, L. F. Hilton, Cara Clark, John E. Boggs, Thomas Wilkinson, W. J. Cook and Thomas T. Osterman. Of this number all have passed from earth, save Miss Cara Clark, W. J. Cook and the present postmaster, Thomas T. Osterman, Mr. Hilton being the last to die.

HOW THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT BUILDING WAS SECURED

Perhaps no better method of preserving the history of how so small a city as Blair secured an appropriation for so large and costly a post-office building than to quote from the columns of the *Blair Tribune* of July 15, 1920:

"Here is a clipping from the *Tribune's* 'morgue' and thinking it might interest our readers who have forgotten the fight Dave Mercer put up to get our government building, as well as to those who never heard of it, we are reprinting it. The appropriation was made February 7, 1899, and the story is as follows:

"The house committee of the whole passed a number of bills providing for the erection of public buildings at points in Nebraska. The bill appropriating \$43,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a public building at Blair was passed, but some opposition developed after its passage on the ground that Mercer had exaggerated the population of Blair.

"In order to gain time Mr. Mercer said he would ask the unanimous consent to strike out the Blair bill and substitute the Omaha public building for it. On this agreement the Omaha bill was read and passed. It extends the limit of cost to \$1,800,000.

"Mr. Handy then reminded Mr. Mercer that he had not yet stricken out the Blair bill, and Mr. Mercer asked the unanimous consent of the house to do it, but on the objection of Mr. Handy of Pennsylvania, a member of the committee, the house refused to grant its consent and both bills were passed. The clever move on the part of Mr. Handy to let Mr. Mercer out of a tight place was greeted with shouts of laughter and there was great applause."

"Blair was one of the very few small cities in the United States to get an appropriation for a public building in those days, although during the past ten years a number of towns of this size have been made the recipients of buildings of this kind.

"If the writer's memory is correct Blair was reported to have had a population of 4,000 at that time. It probably only actually had about half that number. More than twenty years later we have less than 3,000—and have taken in considerable outside territory that the city limits didn't claim those days.

"The promise of a Federal building was made by Mr. Mercer while making a speech down at the old Germania Hall, when he stated 'that if he were again returned to Congress and Blair and Washington counties gave him their usual large majority, he would see that we got a government postoffice building.'

"The idea was laughed at by the democrats who ridiculed it as merely a campaign promise. But 'Dave' made good and the *Tribune* editor was the first democrat to occupy the building as postmaster.

"W. J. Cook was postmaster at the time and when the building was completed in 1901, moved the postoffice from the room in the *Pilot* building now occupied by the Bell telephone offices. Mr. Cook followed the late Thomas Wilkinson as postmaster and held the position nearly seventeen years. The *Tribune* editor took over the job July 1, 1914."

THE BLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Among the public utilities and municipal possessions of which the City of Blair may feel a just pride is its public library. As the stranger

approaches the northwestern corner of this structure they observe the conspicuous corner-stone of the public library which has this inscription: "Erected 1916 by the Nebraska Masonic Fraternity, Andrew A. Viele, Grand Master. Dedicated to the City of Blair, December 12." Then follows the names composing the first Library Board: Mrs. Charles R. Mead, president; N. T. Lund, vice president; Mrs. D. C. Van Deusen, secretary; Mrs. J. P. Jensen, John A. Rhoades, Rev. A. E. Marsh, W. H. Myers, E. M. Beaty and J. B. Gibson.

The following should be preserved as the record of the early history connected with the present public library: In 1877 the people of the then little Hamlet of Blair established a small library. At first it was known as "The Ladies Library Association." It was soon changed to the "Blair Library Association." The first books were donated by the members and included classics, history, travels and some fiction. After a time the books were divided up and only a part of them kept at the home of Mrs. George Sutherland. In June, 1880, the society was reorganized and the home of Mrs. E. C. Pierce was the home of the library for a time. At least it appears of record that at that place new officers were elected as follows: F. W. Kenny, president; Miss Cara Clark, vice president; Mrs. E. C. Pierce, secretary; Mrs. A. Castetter, treasurer. The books were then moved to a room in the Pierce block, where it was kept open one day each week. Miss Carrie Wiseman was the first librarian there. She was succeeded by Miss Miriam Castetter, Miss Cara Clark, Miss Melitia Taylor and Dr. E. A. Palmer.

The next move of the library was when it was located over the Castetter Bank, and from there it was removed to a room in the courthouse. While located there the librarians were: Clara Kenny, Daisy Lutz, Agnes Slater, Agnes Olermann, Mr. McMenemy, Mrs. D. C. Van Deusen, Flora Bradley, May McQuarrie, Edith Schmahling. The library was then moved to the city hall. The first librarian after coming under city control was Miss May McQuarrie. Other well-known persons have been connected with this library, including: Judge I. C. Eller, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Jackson, Mrs. L. L. Lantry, Mrs. F. W. Kenny, Mrs. W. C. Walton, Mrs. George De Temple, Mrs. H. H. Hahn, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Van Deusen and Mrs. C. T. Farnham. Prof. W. L. Johnson in the early years gave freely of his time and talent to further the interests of this public library.

Later the library passed to the management of the Monday Afternoon Club. In 1913 it was removed to the city hall, meantime members of the Woman's Club, etc., agitated a permanent home for the library which had no abiding place, and under the supervision of no real authority. At a meeting held Mrs. C. R. Mead, chairman of the club, took action, managed a campaign to induce the city council to take over the library, to make a levy for its support and endeavor to get a Carnegie building donated to Blair. Nels M. Jensen then took the matter in hand and got the council on his side. Just at this juncture two Blair newspapers—Democrat and Pilot—with Editors Thomas T. Osterman and D. C. Van Deusen, commenced their hearty support for the enterprise, giving free space for all who desired to have their say in print on the subject. After a lively campaign the library building measure was won. A site was selected on Lincoln Street and purchased; Andrew Carnegie donated \$10,000 for the building and it was erected and opened to the general public October 6, 1917. It is a pressed brick building of modern construction. At the formal opening of the completed library building the Woman's Relief Corps had a "flag raising" and speeches were made.

The library now has 3,500 volumes of excellent books, besides many regular newspapers and periodicals in the reading rooms.

The 1920 Library Board is as follows: Mrs. D. C. Van Deusen, Mrs. Dr. C. R. Mead, Mary Beaty, Rev. A. E. Marsh and George B. Riker.

CROWELL MEMORIAL HOME FOR THE AGED

This beautiful home is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Crowell to the Methodist people of Nebraska that its superannuated ministers, their wives or widows, deaconesses and aged lay members of the church may spend the evenings of their life free from anxious care in the arms of the church to which they have given their love, their labor and their lives.

This charming spot, just joining the City of Blair on the west, con-



CROWELL MEMORIAL HOME FOR THE AGED, BLAIR

tains 11½ acres of park, lawn, garden, orchard, vineyard and pasture. The original home contains twenty-two rooms of all sizes, with all modern improvements. The new building has nine rooms finished on the first floor and eighteen rooms on the second floor yet unfinished.

This home was established in 1907, on a part of the old Crowell homestead place with its more than 100 varieties of shade trees, no two alike, originally.

There are three ways by which Methodists can find a home in advanced life; first, by paying in from a few hundred dollars up to whatever they may possess and this insures them a home the remainder of their days. Second, one without means may here find a home and receive the exact attention given to those of means. Third, if any time a Methodist of Nebraska should desire to become a member of the Home circle, he or she can do by paying a monthly board bill within the reach of anyone who boards now-a-days.

At this date, September, 1920, the Home has a membership of thirty-seven, of which ten are men and twenty-seven are women. The ages run from sixty to ninety-three years.

The present superintendent, Rev. W. H. Underwood and his excellent wife who is matron, published the following statement in September, 1920:

The receipts of the institution show a balance on hand September 6, of \$669.59.

From the church, \$8,142.91; from guests, \$4,007.60; miscellaneous, \$710.52; from maintenance fund, \$2,167.55.

The disbursement fund shows among its items: Groceries, \$1,643.95; meats, \$690.43; coal, \$847.25; building material, \$4,144.80; gas, \$386.05; feed, \$675.47; salaries, \$4,680.89; insurance, \$1,012.85; light, \$302.65; miscellaneous, \$1,357.83.

Total amount of fund, August 1, \$10,001.84. Cash on hand, \$3,084.15.

This is the only home for aged Methodists in Nebraska and but few other commonwealths have such a plan.

CHAPTER XVIII

CUMING CITY TOWNSHIP

BOUNDARY—STREAMS—RAILROAD—BIG DRAINAGE DITCH—POPULATION —TYSON STATION—CUMING CITY (DEFUNCT)—HIGHLAND

Cuming City Township is bounded on the north by Herman Township, on the east by the west shore of the Missouri River, on the south by Blair Township and on the west by Grant Township.

The streams of this part of Washington County include Stewart Creek, Lippincott Creek, the headwaters of Long and New York Creeks, and also Fox and McKinney Lakes.

The railway line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Company runs through this township from north to south with a station point at Tyson in section 15.

The Cameron Drainage Ditch courses its way through this part of the county, and finally empties into the Missouri east of Blair.

The population of Cuming City Township for three census periods—from 1890 to 1910, was as follows: In 1890 it was 665; in 1900 it was 638, and in 1910 it was 613—the late census is not yet completed for use.

HIGHLAND

Highland, a small station point on the railroad between Blair and Herman, originally known as Mead Station, in honor of Giles Mead, a large stock shipper from this place. The name was changed to Highland in September, 1881. The postoffice at Highland was named Giles and was established January 1, 1882; Giles Mead was first postmaster. For many years the place was noted for its brick industry and for the amount of wild hay pressing that was annually carried on.

CUMING CITY—DEFUNCT

Concerning this "has been" village it was written by the author of the Nebraska State History in 1882, which is excellent authority, as follows:

"Cuming City was claimed by P. G. Cooper and 'two others' in September, 1854, but no settlement was effected until the next spring, when a site was mapped and surveyed, and named in honor of the then acting governor, Cuming. Cuming City, like many another western town, aimed high, but has failed to reach the coveted elevation. A ferry charter was granted P. G. Cooper in January, 1856, and in the same month the legislature incorporated 'Washington College,' and located it at Cuming City, at the same time appointing a board of eight trustees consisting of the following distinguished gentlemen: B. R. Folsom, James C. Mitchell, T. B. Cuming, Mark W. Izzard, P. G. Cooper, William B. Hall, John C. Campbell, and J. B. Radford.

"In 1856 the Nebraska Pioneer was started, under the editorial management of a Mr. Dimmick, and in 1858 the Cuming City Star was started, and flourished for a while, conducted by L. M. Kline.

"Cuming City was frequently represented in the Territorial Legislature. In 1856, James S. Stewart, who was one of the earliest settlers, was chosen Representative. In 1857 Mr. Stewart was re-elected with P. G. Cooper, also of Cuming City, as colleague. In 1858 Mr. Cooper was re-elected, with L. M. Kline."

This was about as near a "paper town" as one could conceive of, its plat having been a part of a farm ever since the oldest settler can well remember its name and location.

Bell, in his Centennial History of this county speaks of Cuming as follows: Flattered and encouraged with the patronage of territorial officials, Cuming City soon became a place of importance and great future prospects. The inevitable ferry charter was granted to P. G. Cooper in January, 1856, by the Legislature, and the same months "Washington College" was incorporated and located at Cuming City, and the same act appointed a board of trustees consisting of such famous characters as B. R. Folsom, James Mitchell, T. B. Cuming, Mark W. Izzard, P. G. Cooper, William B. Hall, John C. Campbell and J. B. Radford.

In 1857 there were in Cuming City fifty-three dwelling houses, three stores, three hotels, besides several boarding houses and a number of saloons. At the annual election that year Cuming City was again honored by the selection of two of its prominent citizens as representatives: James S. Stewart was re-elected with P. G. Cooper of Cuming City, and Alonzo Perkins, of De Soto as colleagues.

The first fourth of July celebration in the county was held at Cuming City on North Creek in 1860. Judge John S. Bowen was orator of the day.

Among the first settlers in Cuming City were: Jacob Pate, Lorenzo Pate, J. Zimmerman, J. Goll, E. Pilcher, P. G. Cooper, J. S. Stewart, L. M. Kline, T. C. Hungate, O. W. Thomas, George A. Brigham, A. Merrick, L. R. Fletcher, Giles Mead, J. C. Lippincott, J. Boice and J. Johnson.

CHAPTER XIX

DE SOTO TOWNSHIP

BOUNDARY—STREAMS—RAILWAY LINE—POPULATION—EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP AND DE SOTO VILLAGE—FIRST EVENTS—ONCE SETTLED BY FLEEING MORMONS—MILLS—NEWSPAPERS—INCORPORATION—PIKE'S PEAK BOOM—FIRST CHURCH SERVICES—LIST OF EARLY PIONEERS.

De Soto Township is situated on the eastern line of Washington County, with the Missouri River at the east, Fort Calhoun Township at the south, Blair Township at the west and Blair Township and the Missouri River at the north.

Its streams are the many small creeks including Long Creek, but there are no large streams, the Missouri River washes its northern and eastern shores, and thus originally there was much swampy bottom land, much of which has long since been reclaimed, however.

The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway runs diagonally from the southeast to the northwest parts of the township, with a station at the old Village of De Soto in section 27.

The population of De Soto Township, including the village has been at various times as follows: The village itself had in 1857 about 650; in 1890 the township and village had 277 population; in 1900 it was 370, and in 1910 was placed at only 313.

DE SOTO VILLAGE

De Soto is situated about four miles southeast of Blair, on the Missouri bottoms, and is a station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway (now controlled by the Northwestern system). It was platted in the autumn of 1854, by Dr. John Glover, Gen. J. B. Robinson, Potter C. Sullivan, E. P. Stout, William Clancy and a few others. No settlement was really effected until the following spring. It was incorporated as a town March 7, 1855, and during that season thirty hewed log houses were built there.

The first store was built by Dr. A. Phinney; the first postmaster was Potter C. Sullivan; the earliest mercantile firm was styled Kennard Brothers, established in 1856. One of the pioneers of the place was Judge Jesse T. Davis, who later moved to Blair.

Three banks were established at De Soto—the Bank of De Soto, the Waubek Bank and the Corn Exchange Bank. The first soon winked out; the other two were never old enough to be called adults.

For many years De Soto continued to be a lively place—was Washington County's seat of justice at one time—held it eight years, when Fort Calhoun recovered her lost prize again.

The population of De Soto in 1857 was about 650. A dozen saloons and as many stores flourished there for a number of years, but fate decided against the place and in 1881 there were not in excess of twenty people residing there. The Pike's Peak gold excitement in 1859-60, the building up of Blair and loss of county seat all tended to ruin the place.

It was just below De Soto where the fleeing Mormons from Nauvoo, Illinois, settled in goodly numbers and remained several years. The early "Gentile" settlers found many brickbats from brick kilns burned by this Mormon colony. Brigham Young had a cabin on the ground where later stood the roller flouring mills, of De Soto. This mill was removed to Blair in 1876.

Among the newspapers published from time to time in De Soto, may be recalled by old-timers such papers as the Pilot, established in 1857 by Isaac Parrish; the Washington County Sun, established in 1858, by P. C. Sullivan; and the same year was issued the De Soto Enquirer, by Z. Jackson.

In 1883 the old site of once prosperous De Soto was being occupied solely by three families of farmers. Today it is only a small flag station on the "Omaha" line between Fort Calhoun and Blair.

Bell in his Centennial History of Washington County, usually considered quite accurate, states the following concerning De Soto:

The town of De Soto was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in March, 1855, having been laid out in the fall of the year previous by Dr. John Glover, Gen. J. B. Robinson, Potter C. Sullivan, E. P. Stout, William Clancy, and others. Judge Jesse T. Davis locating there in the fall of 1855. In March, 1855, a charter was granted E. P. Stout to run a ferry-boat across the Missouri River. Again in January, 1856, a charter was granted to William Clancy and P. C. Sullivan to establish and run a steam ferry and city bonds were voted to the amount of \$30,000 to aid the enterprise. P. C. Sullivan was dispatched to the East to dispose of the bonds and procure a steam ferry boat. This project failing to pan out successfully the steam ferry enterprise was abandoned with the charter and subsequently in May, 1857, a flat-boat ferry was established by Isaac Parrish.

During the summer of 1855, thirty hewn log houses were built in the town and business prospects were encouraging. Dr. A. Phinney was the proprietor of the first store and Charles Seltz, who came down the river in a skiff from the mountains and stopped at De Soto in the fall of 1855 was probably the second merchant to locate in the town. Harrison Critz and Z. Jackson each established a boarding house that year and P. C. Sullivan was appointed postmaster.

In 1856 Levi and Marsh Kennard, both later residents of Omaha, established themselves in the mercantile business at De Soto under the firm name of Kennard Bros.

In 1857 a Mr. Fake from Chicago brought a heavy stock of liquors to De Soto. Samuel Francis established a hotel and the Bank of De Soto entered upon a career of brilliant but rather short lived prosperity with Samuel Hall as president and George E. Scott, cashier. In the same year the Waubee Bank was started with H. H. Hine as president and A. Castetter, teller, the latter doing all the business and in the following spring the Corn Exchange Bank was established by a Chicago firm with I. Tucker as teller.

Town property increased in price at a rapid rate and the old settlers used to point with pride to the fact that a Mrs. Johnson refused \$1,500 in gold for a certain corner lot. In 1857 the place had ten or more saloons and nearly as many stores and a population of about seven hundred. Prosperity attended the settlers till the Pike's Peak and Cherry Creek gold excitement in the fall of 1857 when a majority of the men abandoned the town and journeyed to the newly discovered gold fields.

The first minister who ever preached regularly at De Soto was Rev. Jacob Adriance of the Methodist Church. This was in 1857, services being held in a building belonging to W. W. Wyman, then of Omaha where he edited the Omaha Times and was later postmaster of that city. He was father of the present (U. S.) Treasurer.

EARLY PIONEERS AT DE SOTO

Judge Jesse P. Davis and family.	A. Phinney.
Harrison Critz and family.	Henry Way.
Hugh McNeely and family.	William Clancy.
George McKinney and family.	Jerry Sullivan.
Samuel Lewis.	Charles Seltz.
Z. Jackson.	Roger T. Beall.
Potter C. Sullivan and family.	— Grennell.
Ephriam Sullivan and family.	George E. Scott and family.
Davis McDonald and family.	Samuel Francis and family.
Porter S. Walker.	A. E. Allen.
Stephen Cass and family.	Frank Goodwill and family.
James E. Smith and family.	H. Knapp and family.
George W. Martin and family.	Charles Powell and family.
Z. S. Martin and family.	A. Castetter and family.
Jeremiah Barnhart.	J. W. Damen.
Michael Tobey.	Thomas R. Wilson.
T. M. Carter.	Solomon Himeline.
Leroy and Lewis Tucker with their families.	Constance Cachelin and family.
Dr. Cutts and family.	W. H. B. Stout.
Con Orem.	Joseph Buga and family.
I. Tucker.	George Oberst.
M. B. Wilson.	Louis Bouvier and family.
Alex Carter, Jr.	David Stout.
Elisha P. Stout.	George McKenzie and family.
Edward and Edwin Hayes.	J. P. Ames.
J. Bliss.	Doctor Glover and family.
Jacob Hill.	Ferdinand Bujeon and family.
J. T. McGiddagan.	John Carrigan and family.

CHAPTER XX

ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP

**BOUNDARY—POPULATION—TOWNS AND VILLAGE—A FARMING SECTION—
MARKET FACILITIES—SURROUNDED BY A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND
A LARGE CITY TO TRADE AT—CITY OF ARLINGTON—BOWEN HAMLET—
THE MARSHALL NURSERIES—RAILROAD LINES.**

This subdivision of Washington County is in the extreme southwestern portion of the county. It is bounded on the west by Dodge County, on the north by Fontanelle and Lincoln Townships, on the east by Richland Township and on the south by Douglas County.

Two branches of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway system now pass through this township with stations at Arlington and Bowen. The western boundary line of the township is made by the meanderings of the crooked Elkhorn River.

The population of this township for three decades has been: In 1890 it was 1,167; in 1900 it was 1,378, and in 1910 the Federal census gave the township and Village of Arlington as having a population of 1,380.

This is a splendid farming region and the fields yield their annual crops of wheat, corn and grasses to the enrichment of the farm owners.

The railway facilities are excellent and the great city of Omaha within an hour or two ride by steam cars or automobile. The enterprising City of Arlington of which later account will be had, affords a most satisfactory marketing point for all ordinary merchandise. This township is also the home of the celebrated Marshall Brothers Nursery—see account of it within this chapter also.

VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON

Arlington is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of Washington County in sections 12 and 13, of Congressional township 17, range 9. It was platted by Sioux City & Pacific Railway Company in 1869; the company purchased 440 acres for townsite purposes.

It is on the Elkhorn River and is a station on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad (now a part of the great Chicago & Northwestern Railroad system). Arlington is a junction point, one branch running to Missouri Valley, Iowa, and the other to Omaha, while the main line runs to Fremont and on to the northwest. It has a population of about eight hundred and is an incorporated village, of which the present postmaster, J. C. Badger is village clerk. It is beautifully situated on high charming uplands, with a rural landscape seldom found anywhere. Its schools, churches, lodges and banks are mentioned in special chapters in this work, covering those of the entire county, hence need not further be referred to in this connection.

Arlington was first known as Bell Creek and continued as such until early in 1882 when the name of the postoffice and village was changed to its present name.

The first improvement on the town plat was effected the same year the railway went through the place, and the depot was erected. Sam-

uel A. Frances, one of the early settlers of Fontanelle and John Waynick of Chariton, Iowa, built two residences and opened a lumber yard. A grain warehouse was built by L. H. Jones; a blacksmith shop by John Butler; and E. K. Gilbert opened a shoe shop in 1872.

Mrs. Kate Parker taught the first school. A fine school building was erected in the fall of 1876, at a cost of \$5,000, and in 1877 a Methodist Episcopal Church was built.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY

The Village of Arlington was incorporated April 10, 1882, and the first village officers were: John A. Unthank, chairman; W. J. Crane, clerk; the trustees were: J. A. Unthank, B. Conway, J. C. Blackburn, William D. Badger, N. Foster.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

HIGH SCHOOL, ARLINGTON

The following have served the village as chairmen of the board to the present date: John A. Unthank, William D. Badger, L. C. Weber, Peter Hammang, W. H. Whitney, A. B. Batson, H. W. Schoettger, J. C. Blackburn, Fred Echtenkamp, S. G. Glover, J. C. Badger, W. A. Reckmeyer, O. S. Roberts, H. C. Rurup, C. G. Marshall, P. L. Cady.

The present (1920) officers of the village are: P. L. Cady, chairman; J. C. Badger, clerk; G. I. Pfeiffer, treasurer; F. Wolf, street commissioner, marshal, and water commissioner.

The village has an indebtedness of \$12,500 in outstanding bonds.

The water works cost the taxpayers of the village quite an amount, but already the persons who opposed the original proposition are convinced it was but the part of good business judgment to issue such bonds. The water plant was installed in 1906.

There are two wells—one 30 feet and one 214 feet, from which most excellent water is obtained and in endless quantity. The water is pumped by means of gas and oil engines.

The village is lighted by the Platte Valley Power Company, a private institution.

The old frame school building is the property of the village and it stands in the park and is used as a Town Hall.

EARLY FACTORS OF THE PLACE

A newspaper account of Bell Creek (now Arlington) in 1876 said: "In 1875 the Masons organized a lodge, Bender & Chapman having dissolved, Mr. Chapman starting in business for himself in the same line. W. J. Crane resigned his position of station agent, closed out a stock of goods bought of Mr. Chapman, in the following spring, and went into general insurance business, real estate and collections. A public school building was contracted for that year to cost \$5,000. Doctor Elwood, a physician, commenced his practice in Bell Creek that year as a partner of Doctor Glover."

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS—1920

In the summer of 1920 the business and professional interests of Arlington consisted of the following:

Auto garages—Walter Echtenkamp, Fred Menking, and others in the same line.

Banking—The First National and Arlington State Bank.

Bakery—Chris Legband.

Barbers—Messrs. Dickson and Melvord.

Drugs—D. C. Weber, Leo Snyder.

Elevator—Nye, Schneider, Fowler Co., Farmers' Co-operative Co., and O. C. Roberts.

Brickyard—Utterback Bros.

Furniture—Reckmeyer Co.

Hotel—Ed Ludwig.

Hardware—John Jackerot and the Reckmeyer Hardware Co.

Harness—J. R. Grimes.

Ice dealer—Schmehl Brothers.

Lumber—Farmers Grain & Lumber Co.

Livery—L. C. Gaines.

Meats—E. S. Newell.

Opera House—Connected with the Odd Fellows Building.

Stock Dealers—J. Newcomb and Mr. Newell.

Variety Store—Mrs. Vail.

Implements—J. C. Blackburn, C. W. Breuing.

General Merchandise—Fred Weber, P. Z. Wilson.

Nursery—Marshall Brothers.

Stock Remedy Manufacturing Company—E. O. Burroughs, prop.

Repair and Machine Shop—W. G. Pfeiffer.

Newspaper—The Review-Herald.

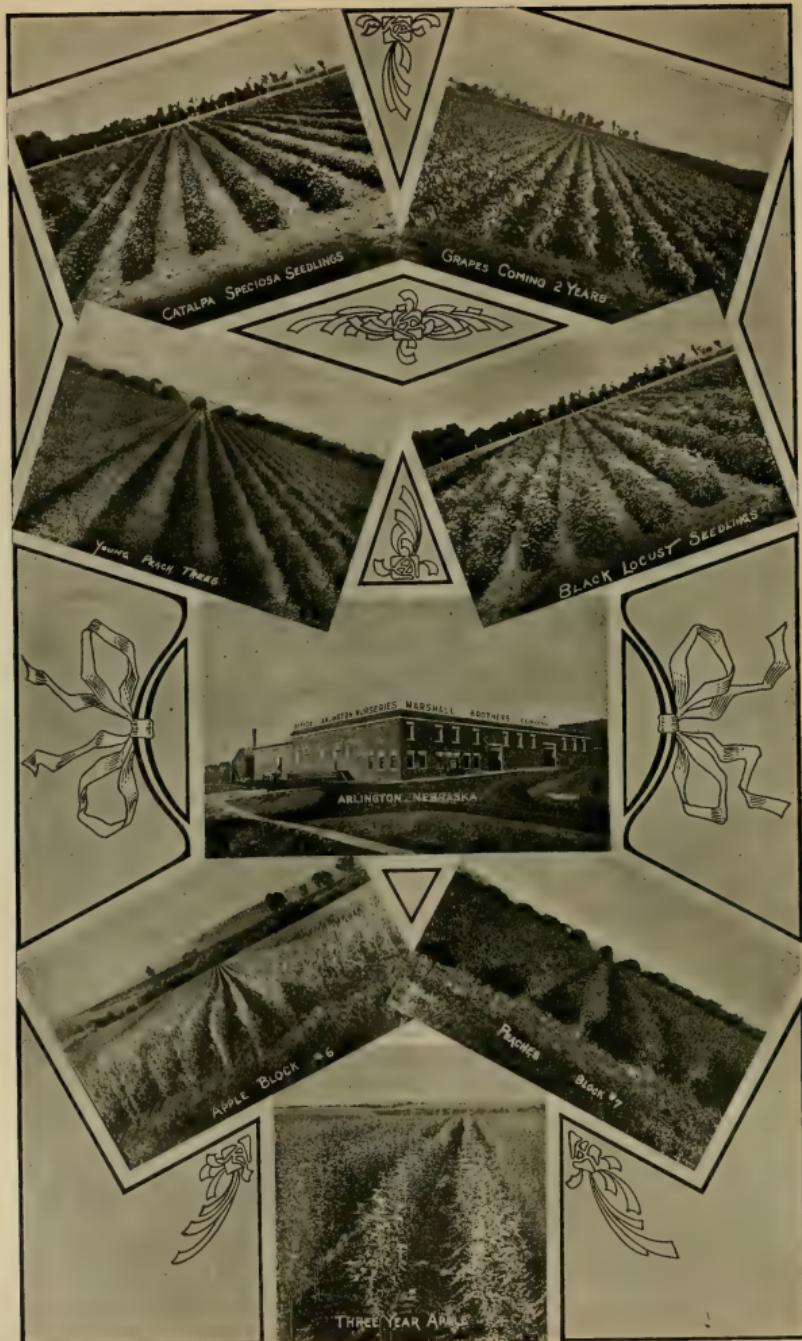
Veterinary Surgeon—Doctor Cady.

Physicians—Davies & Newcomb—firm.

Dentist—Dr. L. M. Peterson.

The schoolhouse is a large two-story brick building, but to it must soon be added one as large in order to accommodate the pupils.

The beautiful village park contains a large city block of land and the same has its shade trees and drinking fountain, as well as the Town Hall which was made out of the old school building. It is a frame structure.



ARLINGTON NURSERIES

MARSHALL'S NURSERIES

The Arlington Nurseries were started the spring of 1887 by Chester C. Marshall, and George A. Marshall, the first planting being done on their farm two miles east of Arlington. These boys came from Ohio a few years earlier, and the open prairies of Washington County and eastern Nebraska impressed them as a great field for the sale of nursery products. The wide variation in native forest trees and wild fruits growing along the streams, as well as the generous numbers of kinds and varieties of trees, fruits, and plants set by early settlers, indicated that eastern Nebraska was adapted to horticulture in its several branches.

To supply hardy trees and plants to Washington County home owners and those of adjoining counties was the aim of the originators. They organized on the partnership plan under the name of "Marshall Brothers." The business grew steadily from the beginning and within a few years the demand was such that the local part of the business no longer predominated, but goods were shipped to all nearby counties, the territory reaching out further from year to year until at the present time this company enjoys a large trade not only in practically every part of Nebraska, but in many of the west central states.

In 1890 H. W. Marshall was added to the firm and in 1907 a fourth brother, A. C. Marshall also joined the partnership. In 1916 the business was incorporated, and is now operating under the corporate name of "Marshall's Nurseries," the Marshall family retaining the larger part of the stock and the general management. The present officers are G. A. Marshall, president; C. C. Marshall, vice president; C. G. Marshall, secretary; H. W. Marshall, treasurer.

Twelve to fifteen trained nurserymen are employed throughout the year, and fifteen to thirty-five additional men are needed during the digging and shipping periods in fall and spring. About fifty salesmen are employed in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois.

The natural development of Nebraska and the central west, and the building of thousands of comfortable and modern homes, has created a demand for much ornamental stock, and the company seeing the need of a landscape department, whereby the home owner could have scientific advice and aid in the planning of his home grounds, have instituted same, with C. W. Andrews as head architect. While this department is comparatively new, still the demand along this line is such that from 20 to 30 per cent of the entire business is handled through this channel.

A block of land is always retained strictly for experimental purposes, where new promising varieties are thoroughly tested out before being offered to the customers.

The elevation and soil at Arlington seem particularly adapted to the propagation and growing of nursery stock, the soil being of the loose type, which produces heavy fibrous root systems, and solid, well-ripened top growth, which means success in transplanting and renders the stock grown here an advertisement in itself.

CHAPTER XXI

HERMAN TOWNSHIP

**BOUNDARIES—STREAMS—LAKES—RAILWAY LINE—BIG DRAINAGE DITCH
—POPULATION—HUDSON—THE “PAPER TOWN”—VILLAGE OF HER-
MAN—HAMLET OF FLETCHER.**

Herman is a “T” shaped township in Washington County. It is bounded on its north by Burt County, on the east by the Missouri River and part way by Cuming City Township, on the south by Cuming City and Grant townships, on the west by Grant and Sheridan townships.

Its streams include New York Creek, Hill Creek, and numerous lesser water courses. Tysons Lake and another smaller lake are found in the eastern portion of the township. The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad line runs through it from north to south, with an enterprising station point at the Town of Herman of which see history in this chapter. One of the county's largest drainage ditches—the Cameron—runs through Herman Township, taking about the same course as the railway right-of-way does, between Herman and to a point east of Blair.

Fletcher is an inland village in section 32.

POPULATION

The United States census gives Herman Township in 1890 as having a population of 827; in 1900 it was placed at 996, and in 1910 it had fallen to 978, including the Village of Herman which at that date was 345.

There was not much settlement in this part of the country until the building of the “Omaha” railway running from Sioux City to Omaha, after which immigrants flocked in at a lively rate.

HUDSON—THE FAMOUS “PAPER TOWN”

A “town” better advertised and more generally known in the Eastern States than here in Washington County, was known as “Hudson.” It was supposed to be situated in the extreme northeastern part of this county, on the Missouri River and just on the Iowa side opposite was a town platted as “Melrose,” both of which were great early day schemes for taking money from lot owners in the far off eastern country. Concerning this town of Hudson, Bell in his Centennial history of this county has the following:

“There are a great many residents of Washington County who never knew—and probably would have gone down to the silent tomb without the knowledge, but for this veracious chronicle of the past—that in 1856 a very enterprising citizen of Connecticut, one W. E. Walker, was the sole owner and proprietor of a town site in a swamp in the extreme northeast corner of this county, which he christened Hudson. More than this: he platted another townsite in a like eligible locality immediately opposite on the Iowa side of the Missouri, called it Melrose, published beautiful lithographs by the hundreds representing the two towns with busy steamers plying between them and endeavoring to supply transportation

for enormous traffic constantly carried on between the two towns. Armed with these, aided and abetted by a tongue remarkable for the oily rapidity with which it could be manipulated, Walker meandered up and down the Eastern states engaged in lecturing and at the close of each lecture would sell off lots in Hudson or Melrose at the rate of one dollar each with astonishing rapidity. A plat of Hudson can be seen at the county clerk's office and this plat shows that the town was comprised of 8,720 lots, consisting of fifty blocks, 2,000 feet long by 200 feet wide. The streets were from forty-five to sixty feet wide and there was not an alley in the town. The sale of lots in Hudson was so great for the first few years after its location that the county clerks accumulated considerable wealth by recording the deeds therefor at the rate of one dollar each. The deeds were printed, the name of Walker being also printed so when lots were sold all he had to do was to insert the name of the purchaser and the number of lots purchased. The deeds poured into the county clerk's office from all over the East and it is estimated that Walker made at least \$5,000. To this day (1876) county officials are bothered with letters from eastern suckers inquiring as to present prices in Hudson and the writer was recently shown a batch of thirteen deeds which had been sent in one envelope from Chicago to be recorded."

This "paper city" has long since been drained out and used for farming purposes, such parts as have not been washed away by the uncertain waters of the Missouri River.

HAMLET OF FLETCHER

Fletcher was platted in section 32 a number of years since and now has a country store and a shop, but has never grown to much importance, yet a useful hamlet for the community about it.

VILLAGE OF HERMAN

Herman is situated in southeast quarter of section 30, township 20, range 11, east, within a half mile of the northern line of Dodge County. It was platted in 1871, by the railroad officials of the old Omaha & Northwestern Railroad Company, and is a prominent station point on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha division of the Northwestern railway system. In 1910 the population according to the United States census reports was 328, but since then it has greatly increased, but the present-year census reports have not as yet been made public, hence cannot be quoted here.

MUNICIPAL

The only clear and available village records begin with 1905 and show the following to have served as chairmen and clerks of the village to the present date:

- 1905—Chairman, Dr. A. J. Cameron; clerk, F. Van Volin.
- 1908—Chairman, Ross Harper; clerk, F. Van Volin.
- 1909—Chairman, Dr. A. J. Cameron; clerk, O. H. Godsey.
- 1910—Chairman, Dr. A. J. Cameron; clerk, O. H. Godsey.
- 1910-11—Chairman, William Meadors; clerk, O. H. Godsey.
- 1911—Chairman, E. P. Hanson; clerk, R. G. Allen.
- 1912—Chairman, C. J. Kruse; clerk, R. G. Allen.
- 1913—Chairman, C. J. Kruse; clerk, R. G. Allen.
- 1913-14—Chairman, Wm. Shaferman; clerk, L. B. Hugelman.
- 1914—Chairman, Wm. Shaferman; clerk, L. B. Hugelman.
- 1915—Chairman, Wm. Shaferman; clerk, Henry Truhlsen.

1916—Chairman, Wm. Shafersman; clerk, Henry Truhlsen.
 1917—Chairman, Henry Truhlsen; clerk, E. C. Burdic.
 1918—Chairman, Henry Truhlsen; clerk, E. C. Burdic.
 1919—Chairman, L. V. Ackerman; clerk, E. C. Burdic.
 1920—Chairman, R. P. Rasmussen; clerk, E. C. Burdic.

The 1920 village officers are as follows: Chairman—R. P. Rasmussen; clerk—E. C. Burdic; with trustees—Messrs. Waldo, Hancock, and C. E. Johnson.

The village first installed a system of water works in 1889, just before the terrible cyclone swept through the village and nearly wiped it from the face of the earth. The standpipe was blown down and other material damage done by the storm. The system is now excellent. The



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

HIGH SCHOOL, HERMAN

village has a block of ground really a park—on which the pumping plant and fire department buildings are situated. From the center of this high elevated city park the steel water tower or standpipe stands, while shaded trees ornament the grounds and the surroundings can be made a place "beautiful."

1920 BUSINESS INTERESTS

In the month of June, 1920, the commercial and professional affairs in Herman was made up as follows:

Banking—Herman State Bank, Plateau State Bank.

Cement Contractor—R. P. Rasmussen.

Clothing—A. H. Smith.

Cream Buyers—David Cole Creamery Company, Fairmont Creamery Company, Farmers Union Co-operative Company.

Drayage—O. L. Hilsinger.

Drugs—The Johnson Drug Company.

Elevators—Crowell Grain & Lumber Company, Holmquist Grain & Lumber Company, Latta Grain Company, Roberts & Rose, Woods-Updike Grain Co.

Garages—Ed Olson, Louis Rasmussen, R. J. Schenck, West Brothers.
General Merchandise—L. V. Ackerman, H. P. Dulaney (Fletcher),
Gray & Gossard, Nels Rasmussen (Spiker), Mrs. E. A. Wachter.
Hardware—Truhlsen Brothers.
Hog Breeders—W. C. Cameron, H. O. Williamson.
Hotel—The West Hotel.
Implement Dealers—C. H. Blanchard, Hancock Implement Company.
Jewelry—O. H. Godsey.
Lumber Dealers—Herzog Lumber Company.
Meat Market—J. B. Jensen.
Newspaper—The Herman Record—see Press chapter.
Oil Dealers—C. H. Blanchard, C. W. Ford, Hancock Implement
Company, Standard Oil Company.
Physician—Dr. A. J. Cameron.
Pantatorium—Fern West, proprietor.
Plumbing—Frank J. Kastl.
Restaurant—L. E. Nelson.
Schools—Broderson School, Herman Schools, Hillcreek School, New
England School.
Stock Buyers—Burdic Brothers.
Veterinary Surgeon—Dr. C. V. Weeces.
The village is surrounded by a very fertile country and its farmers
are a thrifty, intelligent class of people, of many nationalities, but
generally speaking, are truly thoroughgoing American citizens, who are
good citizens and great home builders and appreciate the country in
which they reside.

CHAPTER XXII

FONTANELLE TOWNSHIP

HISTORIC LOCATION—CORRECT SPELLING OF NAME—BOUNDARY—POPULATION—STREAMS, SOIL—IMPROVEMENTS—VILLAGE OF FONTANELLE—TALBASTA—REMINISCENCES BY EDA MEAD—EXTRACTS FROM BELL'S HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IN 1876—DEATH AND BURIAL OF LOGAN FONTANELLE.

Fontanelle Township and village of this county is the background for much pioneer history and personal experience had by men and women who must have possessed iron constitutions and hearts of steel, yet full of human kindness. In order to be correct the writer has consulted the relatives of old Indian Chief, Logan Fontenelle, and learned that the name was spelled F O N T E N E L L E, and not with an "a"—Fontanelle, as so many Nebraska historians, even historical societies of the state, insist on spelling the name of the old honored chief for whom this township and village were named back in the '50s.

Fontanelle Township is situated on the west side of Washington County, and is eight miles from north and south by five miles from east and west. It is bounded on the north by Sheridan Township, on the east by Grant and Lincoln townships, on the south by Arlington Township and a small portion by Dodge County. On its west it is bounded by Dodge County of which it was once a part.

The streams coursing through this township include Bell's Creek, Brown's Creek, and the Elkhorn River, with many smaller streams. This part of the county is one of Nature's real garden spots and man has made it one of beauty and intrinsic value by tilling its fertile soil, erecting its many handsome farm houses and constructing its scores and hundreds of wagon-bridges and culverts after modern specifications. To be a landowner in this township is to be known as an independent, contented and happy person who should be thankful that his lot was cast in such a goodly place.

POPULATION

In 1890 this township had a population of 803; in 1900 it was 759 and in 1910 it was only 766. The returns for the present (1920) enumeration have not as yet been made public by the department at Washington.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

The account given of the first settlement of the Village of Fontanelle, in 1854, by the Quincy (Ill.) Colony, is in fact the history of the pioneer settlement in Fontanelle Township, as will be discovered by the following account of that event:

The colony organized at Quincy, Illinois, in 1854 was for the purpose of securing for its members, homes for themselves and their families in the then new Territory of Nebraska. The style of the company was "The Nebraska Colonization Company." In July that year, Rev. W. W. Keep, Jonathan Smith, J. W. Richardson, Jared

Blanset, C. Bernard, William Flach and James A. Bell (the father of the John T. Bell who wrote the small, but reliable history of Washington County in 1876) came to Nebraska in order to "view the land," and locate the colony on behalf of the company. They crossed Iowa in wagons, as there was then not a foot of railway track west of the Mississippi River. They camped out on the way and in due time reached the small city of Omaha which had then just been platted by the Nebraska & Council Bluffs Ferry Company.

Historian Bell continues his narrative as follows: Passing beyond the bluffs of the Missouri and its tributaries, the Quincy pilgrims found a section of country which for agricultural and grazing purposes has no superior on this continent—or any other. Arriving in the vicinity of the Elkhorn, in their northwesterly course, they came to a stream of considerable size, over which it was necessary to throw a temporary bridge, in order to cross it. To do this someone had to "coon it" across the stream on a log, and this task was undertaken by James A. Bell. Before reaching the other shore, however, he heard something drop into the stream below, and was surprised to find that it was himself. He was at once fished out and spread on the grass to dry. In consequence of this little episode the party immediately christened the stream "Bell Creek," the name it still bears. Crossing the creek the colonization party pursued their way to the banks of the Elkhorn, and were so pleased with the surrounding country that they decided to locate there, and the townsite of Fontanelle was laid out, claims made by the party, etc., who then proceeded to the camp of the Omaha Indians—in honor of whose chief, Logan Fontanelle, the town was named, and held a grand pow-wow with the tribe for the purpose of securing its good will. They also paid Fontanelle the sum of \$10 each, with the understanding that he was to protect their interests until members of the company could be sent out and establish their new town, and then return to Quincy.

I am unable to give the entire list of names belonging to this colony, as it was formed in Illinois, but it is certain that these were among the membership: Jonathan Smith, president; Rev. W. W. Keep secretary; J. W. Richardson, J. C. Bernard, treasurer; O. C. Bernard, H. Metz, John Evans, J. Armor, H. G. Mauzey, E. M. Davis, W. H. Davis, Jared Blan-
sett, G. Williamson, J. McIntosh, Rufus Brown, Root and James A. Bell.

In the fall of 1854, the company sent out Judge J. W. Richardson as their agent, to occupy the town site on behalf of the company. Judge Richardson was accompanied by his wife—later Mrs. William Kline. At Council Bluffs they were joined by Col. William Kline and Colonel Doyle, of South Carolina, who had been recently appointed marshal for the new territory. In December, Dr. M. H. Clark was elected councilman, and Colonel Doyle and Judge Richardson representatives to the Territorial Legislature, from Dodge County, in which Fontanelle was the only settlement.

FONTANELLE WANTED THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL

Judge Richardson was instructed by members of the colony to put forth every effort possible to insure the locating of the capital of Nebraska Territory at Fontanelle. But Omaha won the coveted prize. They did succeed, however, in getting a charter to establish a college for Fontanelle; and to be run under the auspices of the Baptist Church; also a town charter and a ferry charter, the latter in favor of Colonel Kline.

The County of Dodge was organized and the county seat was designated as Fontanelle. During the territorial session of that winter a bill was introduced chartering the Platte Valley & Pacific Railroad Company, and February 16, 1855, Doctor Clark, chairman of the committee on corporations, submitted his report, showing clearly the object of this railroad bill and during his speech remarked:

"In view of the wonderful changes that will result, your committee cannot believe the period remote when this work will be accomplished, and with liberal encouragement to capital which your committee are disposed to grant, it is their belief that before **FIFTEEN YEARS** have transpired, the route to the Indies will be opened and the way across this continent will be the common highway of the world."

Fourteen years and three months from that day the golden spike which completed the world's highway was driven on the summit of the Rockies.

PIONEER SETTLERS

Prior to the autumn of 1856 the following had become settlers in Fontanelle, with those already mentioned: Judge and Mrs. Richardson,



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

HIGH SCHOOL, FONTANELLE

John W. Pattison, Chris Leiser and family, Colonel Kline, Samuel Whittier and family, Rev. J. M. Taggart and family, Miss Ellen Griffith, Willis Carr, Eli Harlow, Edward Carpenter, Isaac Underwood and family, Mrs. Denslow and family, B. L. Keyes and family, William M. Saint, John Beaty and family, John Evans and family, Rufus Brown and family, Henry Sprick, John K. Cramer and family, Christy Achilles and family, Morris Wogan and family, Arthur Bloomer, John Bloomer, David Bloomer, Thomas Fitzsimmons and family, Sam Francis and family, William H. Johnson, Henry C. Lemon and family, George Hindley, Jared Blansett, William Flach and Family, Charles Osterman, J. M. Hancock and family, Jacob Canaga and family, John Ray and family, Deacon Searle and family, John and Silas Seeley, Pomeroy Searle, Sam Williams and family, Hiram Ladd and family, Sumner D. Prescott, William

R. Hamilton and family, Henry Brinkman and family, William Hecker, Sr., Orlando and Pierce Himebaugh, William C. Hecker, Julius Brainard and family.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

In 1856 a college building was erected by the Congregational people, to whom the Baptists had assigned their charter elsewhere named. A flourishing school was here kept alive a number of years, Professor Burt being the first instructor. This building was used for public meetings, lyceums, etc. Annual festivals were held and bounteous suppers were held in the college buildings about New Year's day, until the close of the Civil war, to which festivals the settlers for many miles around came regularly, bringing well-laden baskets and when the contents of these baskets were distributed over the tables the only reason they did not groan was because they were not of the groaning kind!

In the winter of 1858-59 Fontanelle became a part of Washington County, in consequence of reorganization of county lines.

The first school was taught by Miss Emily Strickland in 1856-57.

The first stock of goods in the settlement was kept by William H. Davis in 1855, he also had the first hotel—a double log—called the Fontanelle House.

A town lot was offered by the company to the parents of the first child born on the plat and much rivalry ensued, for it is known that two children were born the same night, although Mattie, daughter of Samuel Francis, born October 2, 1855, was by a few hours the earlier.

FONTANELLE OF TODAY

After a wonderfully romantic and somewhat strange history, the once flourishing Village of Fontanelle has dwindled down to a few houses and the few inhabitants trade at a small store and get mail from the little country route. The most of the village platting is now doing good service as excellent farm land, yielding up its annual harvest.

THE PASSING OF CHIEF LOGAN FONTENELLE

No more appropriate farewell can be given to the reader of this chapter than to give what S. T. Bangs of Sarpy County said in his Centennial History of Sarpy County in 1876:

Logan Fontenelle was a half-breed, his father being French. He was educated in St. Louis; spoke English fluently and was at this time about thirty years of age, of medium height, swarthy complexion, black hair and dark piercing eyes. In the middle of the summer of 1855, a procession might have been seen wending its way toward the old home of Logan Fontenelle on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River and above the stone quarries of Bellevue. It moved slowly along, led by Louis San-so-see, who was driving a team with a wagon in which was wrapped in blankets and buffalo robes all that was mortal of Logan Fontenelle, the chief of the Omahas. On either side was Indian chiefs and braves mounted on their ponies, with the squaws and relatives of the deceased showing their grief in mournful outcries. His remains were taken to the house he had left a short time before and now desolate and afflicted they related the incidents of his death. He had been killed by the Sioux on the Loup Fork thirteen days before, while on a hunt with

the Omahas. Having left the main body with San-so-see in pursuit of game and while in a ravine that hid them from the sight of the Omahas, they came in contact with a band of Sioux on the warpath who attacked them. San-so-see escaped in some thick underbrush while Fontenelle stood his ground fighting desperately and killing three of his adversaries, when he fell pierced with fourteen arrows and the prized scalp-lock was taken by his enemies. The Omahas did not recover his body until the next day.

It was the wish of Colonel Sarpy to have him interred on the bluffs fronting the house in which he had lived and a coffin was made which proved to be too small without unfolding the blankets which had enveloped him, and as he had been dead so long this was a disagreeable task. After putting him in the coffin his wives who witnessed the scene uttered the most piteous cries, cutting their ankles until the blood ran in streams. An old Indian woman who looked like a witch of Endor, standing between the house and the grave, lifted her arms to heaven and shrieked her maledictions upon the head of his murderers. Colonel Sarpy, Stephen Decatur, Mrs. Sloan, an Otoe half-breed, and others, stood over his grave where his body was being lowered, and while Decatur was reading the impressive funeral service of the Episcopal Church, he was interrupted by Mrs. Sloan, who stood by his side, and in a loud tone told him that "a man of his character ought to be ashamed of himself to make a mockery of the Christian religion by reading the solemn services of the church." He proceeded, however, until the end. After the whites, headed by Colonel Sarpy, had paid their last respects, the Indians filed around the grave and made a few demonstrations of sorrow. The whites dispersed to their homes and the Indians to recite their own exploits and the daring of their dead chief—Fontenelle.

ANOTHER HISTORY OF FONTANELLE

A few years since, Mrs. Eda Mead, in "Nebraska Pioneers," wrote the interesting story of the rise and fall of the Village of Fontanelle, Nebraska. These facts, as she avers, are largely from her own observation and memory, she having been reared in the vicinity herself. It is believed that no better account of this defunct village can be given at this time than the one she gives, and from which we take the liberty to quote freely, that the story may be preserved in the annals of the county:

When Nebraska was first organized as a territory, a party of people in Quincy, Illinois, conceived the idea of starting a city in the new territory and thus making their fortune. They accordingly sent out a party of men to select a site.

These men reached Omaha in 1854. There they met Logan Fontenelle, chief of the Omahas, who held the land along the Platte and Elkhorn rivers. He agreed to direct them to a place favorable for a town. Upon reaching the spot, where the present village is now situated, they were so pleased that they did not look further, but paid the chief \$100 for the right to claim and locate twenty square miles of land. This consisted of land adjoining the Elkhorn River, then ascending a high bluff, a tableland ideal for the location of a town.

These men thought the Elkhorn navigable and that they could ship their goods from Quincy by the way of the Missouri River, Platte River and the Elkhorn.

Early in the spring of 1855 a number of the colonists, bringing their household goods, left Quincy on a small boat, the "Mary Cole," expect-

ing to reach Fontanelle by the way of the Elkhorn; and then use the boat as a packet to points on the Platte and Elkhorn rivers.

But the boat struck a snag in the Missouri River and, with a part of the cargo, was lost. The colonists then took what was saved overland to Fontanelle.

By the first of May, 1855, there were sufficient colonists on the site to hold two claims. Then each of the fifty members drew by lot for the eighteen lots each were to hold. The first choice fell on W. H. Davis. He chose the land along the river, fully convinced of its superior situation as a steamboat landing. The colonists then built houses of cottonwood timber, and a store and a hotel were started. Thus the little town of about 200 inhabitants was started with great hopes of soon becoming a large city.

Land on the edge of the bluff had been set aside for a college building. This was called Collegeview. Here a building was begun in 1856 and completed in 1859. This was the first advanced educational institution west of the Missouri River.

In 1865 the building was burned. Another building was immediately erected, but after a few years' struggle for patronage, they found it was doomed to die, so negotiated with the people of Crete, Nebraska, and the Congregational organizations (for it was built by the Congregationalists) in Nebraska. It therefore became the nucleus of what is now Doane College. The bell of the old church is still in use in the little village. The first religious services were held by the Congregationalists. The church was organized by Rev. Reuben Gaylord, who also organized the first Congregational Church in Omaha.

In Fontanelle the Congregationalists did not have a building but worshiped in the college. This church has long since ceased to exist, but strange as it may appear, after so many years, the last regular pastor was the same man, Rev. Reuben Gaylord, who organized the church.

There was a little band of Methodists, about fifteen in all, who formed the Fontanelle Mission. In 1857 an evangelist, Jerome Spillman, was sent to take charge of this little mission. He soon had a membership of about threescore people. A church was organized, a church and parsonage built. This prospered with the town, but as the town began to lose ground the church was doomed to die. The building stood vacant for a number of years but was finally moved to Arlington.

The settlers found the first winter of 1855-56 mild and agreeable. They thought this was a sample of the regular winter climate; so when the cold, blizzly, deep snow winter of 1856-57 came, it found the majority ill prepared. Many were living in log cabins which had been built only for temporary use. The roofs were full of holes and just the dirt for floors. On awakening in the morning after the first blizzard, many found their homes drifted full of snow; even the beds were covered. The snow laid four or five feet on the level and the temperature was far below zero.

Most of the settlers lost their stock. Food was scarce, but wild game plentiful. Mr. Samuel Francis would take his horse and gun and hunt along the river. The settlers say he might have been seen many times that winter coming into the village with two deer tied to his horse's tail trailing in the snow. By this means, he saved many of the colonists from starvation.

Provisions were very high priced. Potatoes brought four or five dollars a bushel; bacon and pork could not be had at any price. One settler is said to have sold a small hog for \$45; with this he bought

eighty acres of land, which is today worth \$300 per acre. A sack of flour then cost from \$10 to \$15.

At this time many who had come just for speculation left, thus only the home-builders or those who had spent their all and could not return remained.

Then came trouble with the Indians. In the year 1859 the Pawnees were not paid by the Government, for some reason. They became desperate and began stealing cattle from the settlers along the Elkhorn around Fontanelle. The settlers of Fontanelle formed a company known as the "Fontanelle Mounted Rangers," and together with a company sent out by Governor Black from Omaha with one piece of light artillery, started after the Pawnees who were traveling west and north. They captured six persons and held them bound. While they were camped for rest, a squaw in some way gave a knife to one of the prisoners. He pretended to kill himself by cutting his breast and mouth so that he bled freely. He then dropped as if dead. Amidst the confusion the other five, whose ropes had been cut by this same squaw, supposedly, escaped.

As the settlers were breaking camp to still pursue the fleeing tribe, they wondered what to do with the dead Indian. Someone expressed doubt as to his being dead. Then one of the settlers raised his gun and said he would make sure. No sooner had the gun been aimed than the Indian jumped to his feet and said, "Whoof! Me no sick!" They then journeyed on to attack the main tribe. When near their camp the settlers formed a semicircle on a hill, with the artillery in the center.

As soon as the Indians saw the settlers they came riding as swiftly as possible to make an attack, but when within a short distance and before the leader of the settlers could call "Fire!" they retreated. They advanced and retreated this way three times. The settlers were at a loss to understand just what the Indians intended to do; but decided they did not know of the artillery until near enough to see it, then were afraid to make the attack, so tried to scare the settlers, but failing to do so, they finally advanced with a white rag tied to a stick.

The Indians agreed to be peaceable and stop their thieving if the settlers would pay for a pony accidentally killed, and give them medicine for the sick and wounded.

Some of the men who took part in this fight say that if the leader had ordered the settlers to fire on the first advance of the Indians every settler would have been killed. There were twice as many Indians in the first place and the settlers afterwards found that not more than one-third of their guns would work; and after they had fired once, while they were reloading, the Indians with their bows and arrows would have exterminated them. They consider that it was the one piece of light artillery that saved them, as the Indians were very much afraid of a cannon. Thus ended any serious Indian trouble, but the housewives had ever to be on the alert for many years.

Each spring either the Pawnees or Omahas passed through the village on their way to visit some other tribe, and then returned in the fall. Then through the winter stray bands would appear who had been hunting or fishing along the river.

As they were seen approaching everything that could be put under lock and key was made secure. The doors of the houses were also made secure. The Indians would wash and comb their hair at the water troughs, then gather everything about the yard that took their fancy. If by any chance they got into a house they would help themselves to eatables and if they could not find enough they would demand more.

They made a queer procession as they passed along the street. The bucks on the horses or ponies led the way, then would follow the pack-ponies, with long poles fastened to each others' sides and trailing along behind loaded with the baggage came the squaws with their babies fastened to their backs, trudging along behind.

One of the early settlers tells of her first experience with the Indians. She had just come from the far east, and was all alone in the house, when the door opened and three Indians walked in—a buck and two squaws. They closed the door and placed their guns behind it, to show her that they would not harm her. Then they went to the stove and seated themselves, making signs to her that they wanted more fire. She made a very hot fire in the cook stove.

The old fellow examined the stove until he found the oven door; this he opened and took three frozen fish from under his blanket and placed them upon the grate. While the fish were cooking he made signs for something to eat. The lady said she had only bread and sorghum in the house. This she gave them, but the Indian was not satisfied; he made a fuss until she finally found that he wanted butter on his bread. She had to show him that sorghum was all she had. They then took up the fish and went out of doors by the side of the house to eat it. She said they must have eaten every bit of the fish except the bones in the head, all else was eaten up.

Among the first settlers who came in 1855 was a young German who was an orphan and had had a hard life in America up to this time. He took a claim and worked hard for a number of years. He then went back to Quincy and persuaded a number of his countrymen to come out to this new place and take claims, he helping them out, but they were to pay him back as they could.

Years passed; they each and all prospered wonderfully well. The early settlers moved away one by one; as they left he would buy their homes. The houses were torn down or moved away; the trees and shrubs were uprooted, until now this one man, or his heirs—for he has gone to his reward—own almost all of the once prosperous little village, and vast fields of grain have taken the place of the homes and the streets.

It is hard to stand in the streets of the little village which now has about 150 inhabitants and believe that at one time it was the county seat of Dodge County, and that it lacked but one single vote of becoming the capital of Nebraska. There are left only two or three of the original buildings. A short distance south of this village, on a high bluff overlooking the river valley, and covered with oaks and evergreens, these early pioneers started a city which has grown for many years, and which will continue to grow for years to come. In this "city of the dead" we find many people who did much for the little city which failed, but who have taken up their abode in this beautiful spot, there to remain until the end of time.

The story of Fontanelle has been gathered from my early recollections of the place and what I have learned through grandparents, parents and other relatives and friends.

My mother was raised in Fontanelle, coming there with her parents in 1856. She received her education in that first college.

My father was the son of one of the first Congregational missionaries to be sent there. I received my first schooling in the little village school.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

HENRY ROHWER FARM

CHAPTER XXIII

FORT CALHOUN TOWNSHIP

BOUNDARIES—OLD FORT CALHOUN—VILLAGE HISTORY—LAKES AND STREAMS—SCHOOLS—MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS OF VILLAGE—RAILROAD—POPULATION—BUSINESS OF VILLAGE TODAY—CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—POSTOFFICE HISTORY—REMINISCENCES—ACCOUNT OF PLACE BY W. H. ALLEN, MRS. E. H. CLARK AND W. H. WOODS.

This, the extreme southeastern subdivision of Washington County, embraces a tract of land nine miles east and west by five north and south, except the parts of several sections cut off by the Missouri River at its northeastern corner. It is bounded on the north by De Soto Township and the Missouri River, on the east by the Missouri River, on the south by Douglas County, and on the west by Richland Township. Its villages are Fort Calhoun and Coffman—see later. Its railroad is the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha. The water courses of this township include these: Long Creek, Little Pappillion, and their numerous smaller branches; also Horse Shoe Lake, Kelly Lake, Stillwater Lake, and other lakes or ponds. Within this township was the old Government posts, Fort Atkinson now known as Fort Calhoun—see their interesting history.

POPULATION

The United States census reports gave this township a population in 1890 of 1,187, including the village of Fort Calhoun; in 1900 it was 1,494, and in 1910 it was placed at 1,447.

SETTLEMENT

The within historical accounts of old Fort Calhoun Village, at various periods, will cover the list of those who would in ordinary townships be known as first settlers. Hence there will be no attempt at tracing out the first to claim the land of this fertile and historic township, but refer the reader to the village and fort histories found herein.

REMINISCENCES OF FORT CALHOUN

The following story concerning Fort Calhoun by W. H. Allen, appeared in the 1916 volume of the "Pioneer Reminiscences of Nebraska" issued under authority of the Nebraska Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

I reached Fort Calhoun in May, 1856, with my friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Allen, coming with team and wagon from Edgar County, Illinois. I was then eleven years old. Fort Calhoun had no soldiers, but some of the Fort Atkinson buildings were still standing. I remember the liberty pole, the magazine, the old brickyard, at which places we children used to play and pick up trinkets. There was then one general store there, kept by Pink Allen and Jacoby, and but few settlers. Among those I remember were: my uncle, Thomas Allen; E. H. Clark, a land agent; Col. George Stevens and family, who started a hotel in 1856, and Orrin

Rhoades, whose family lived on a claim five miles west of town. That summer my father took a claim near Rhoades, building a log house and barn at the edge of the woods. We moved there in the fall, and laid in a good supply of wood for the huge fireplace, used for cooking as well as heating. Our rations were scanty, consisting of wild game for meat, corn bread, potatoes and beans purchased at Fort Calhoun. The next spring we cleared some small patches for gardens and corn and tended the same with a hoe. There were no houses between ours and Fort Calhoun, nor any bridges. Rhoades' house and ours were the only ones between Fontanelle and Fort Calhoun. Members of the Quincy Colony at Fontanelle went to Council Bluffs for flour and used our place as a half-way house, stopping each way over night. How we children did enjoy their company, and stories of the Indians! We were never molested by the red men, only that they would come begging food occasionally.

I had no schooling until 1860 when I worked for my board in Fort Calhoun at E. H. Clark's and attended the public schools a few months. The next two years I did likewise, boarding at Alex Reed's.

From 1866 to 1869 inclusive, I cut cord wood and railway ties, which I hauled to Omaha for use in the building of the Union Pacific Railroad. I received from \$8 to \$15 per cord for my wood and a dollar apiece for ties.

Deer were plentiful, and once when returning from Omaha I saw an old deer and fawn. Unhitching my team I jumped on a horse and chased the young one down, caught and tamed it. I put a bell on its neck and let it run about at will. It came to its sleeping place every night until the next spring when it left never to be seen by us again.

In the fall of 1864 I was engaged by Edward Creighton to freight with a wagon train for Denver, carrying flour and telegraph supplies. The cattle were corralled and broke at Cole's Creek west of Omaha, known then as "Robbers' Roost," and I thought it great fun to break and yoke those wild cattle. We started in October with forty wagons, seven yoke of oxen to each wagon. I went as far as Fort Cottonwood, 100 miles beyond Fort Kearney, reaching there about November 20th. There about a dozen of us grew tired of the trip and turned back with a wagon and one ox team. On our return, at Plum Creek thirty-five miles west of Fort Kearney, we saw where a train had been attacked by Indians, oxen killed, wagons robbed and abandoned. We waded rivers, Loup Fork and Platte, which was a cold bath at that time of the year.

I lived at this same place in the woods until I took a homestead three miles farther west in 1868.

My father's home was famous at that time, also years afterward, as a beautiful spot in which to hold Fourth-of-July celebrations, school picnics, etc., and the hospitality and good cooking of my mother, "Aunt Polly Allen" as she was familiarly called, was known to all the early settlers in this section of the country.

THE STORY OF THOMAS N. CARTER

In the spring of 1855 with my brother Alex Carter, E. P. and D. D. Stout, I left the beautiful hills and valleys of Ohio to seek a home in the West. After four weeks of travel by steamboat and stage, horseback and afoot, we reached the Town of Omaha, then only a small village. It took us fourteen days to make the trip from St. Louis to Omaha.

While waiting at Kanesville, or Council Bluffs as it is now called, we ascended the hills back of the town and gazed across to the Nebraska

side. I thought of Daniel Boone as he wandered westward on the Kentucky hills looking into Ohio. "Fair was the scene that laid before the little band that paused upon its toilsome way to view the new found land."

At St. Mary we met Peter A. Sarpy. He greeted us all warmly and invited all to get out of the stage and have a drink at his expense. As an inducement to settle in Omaha, we were each offered a lot anywhere on the townsite, if we would build on it, but we had started for De Soto, Washington County, and no ordinary offer could induce us to change our purpose.

We thought that with such an excellent steamboat landing and quantities of timber in the vicinity, De Soto had as good a chance as Omaha to become the metropolis. We reached De Soto May 14, 1855, and found one log house finished and another under way. Zaremba Jackson, a newspaper man, and Doctor Finney occupied the log cabin and we boarded with them until we had located a claim and built a cabin on land we subsequently entered and upon which the City of Blair is now built.

After I had built my cabin of peeled willow poles the Cuming City Claim Club warned me by writing on the willow poles of my cabin that if I did not abandon that claim before June 14, 1855, I would be treated to a free bath in Fish Creek and free transportation across the Missouri River. This, however, proved to be merely a bluff. I organized and was superintendent of the first Sunday school in Washington County in the spring of 1856.

The first board of trustees of the Methodist Church in the county was appointed by Rev. A. G. White on June 1, 1866, and consisted of the following members: Alex Carter, L. B. Cameron, James Van Horn, M. B. Wilds and myself. The board met and resolved itself into a building committee and appointed me chairman. We then proceeded to devise means to provide for a church building at Cuming City by each member of the board subscribing \$50. At the second meeting it was discovered that this was inadequate and it was deemed necessary for this subscription to be doubled. The church was built, the members of the committee hewing logs of elm, walnut and oak for sills and hauling them with ox teams. The church was not completely finished, but was used for a place of worship. This building was moved under the supervision of Rev. Jacob Adriance and by his financial support from Cuming City to Blair in 1870. Later it was sold to the Christian Church, moved off and remodeled and is still doing service as a church building in Blair.

Jacob Adriance was the first regular pastor to be assigned to the mission extending from De Soto to Decatur. His first service was held at De Soto May 3, 1857, at the home of my brother, Jacob Carter, a Baptist. The congregation consisted of Jacob Carter, his family of five, Alexander Carter, myself and wife.

The winter before Reverend Adriance came, Isaac Collins was conducting protracted meetings. One night they threw a dead dog through the window, hitting the minister on the back, knocking him over, and the candles went out, leaving all in darkness. The minister straightened up and declared, "The devil isn't dead in De Soto yet."

I was present at the Calhoun claim fight at which Mr. Goss was killed and Purple and Smith were wounded. The first little log school was erected on the Townsite of Blair, the patrons cutting and hauling the lumber. I was the first director and Mrs. William Allen (nee Emily Bottorff) first teacher.

I served as worthy patriarch of the first Sons of Temperance organization in the county and lived in De Soto long enough to see the last of the whisky traffic banished from that township.

I have served many years in Washington County as school director, justice of the peace and member of the county board.

In October, 1862, I joined the Second Nebraska Cavalry for service on the frontier. Our regiment lost a few scalps and buried a number of Indians. We bivouacked on the plains, wrapped in our blankets, while the sky smiled propitiously over us and we dreamed of home and the girls we left behind us until reveille called to find the drapery of our couch during the night had been reinforced by winding sheets of drifting snows.

FORT CALHOUN IN THE LATER FIFTIES

Mrs. E. H. Clark, well known in Washington County, wrote as follows, and under the above heading, in the 1916 volume of "Pioneer Reminiscences" by the Daughters of the American Revolution Society, and herein is found much that should not be lost in the permanent annals of Washington County. Her article reads as follows: E. H. Clark came from Indiana in March, 1855, with Judge James Bradley and was clerk of the District Court in Nebraska under him. He became interested in Fort Calhoun, then the county seat of Washington County. The town company employed him to survey it into town lots, plat the same and advertise it. New settlers landed here that spring and lots were readily sold. In June, 1855, Mr. Clark contracted with the proprietors to put up a building on the townsite for a hotel; said building to be 24 by 48 feet, two stories high with a wing of the same dimensions; the structure to be of hewn logs and put up in good style. For this he was to receive one-ninth interest in the town. Immediately he commenced getting out timber, boarding in the meantime with Major Arnold's family, and laboring under many disadvantages for want of skilled labor and teams, there being but one span of horses and seven yoke of cattle in the entire precinct at this time. What lumber was necessary for the building had to be obtained in Omaha at \$60 per 1,000 feet and hauled a circuitous route by the old Mormon trail. As an additional incident to his trials, one morning at breakfast Mr. Clark was told by Mr. Arnold that the last mouthful of food was on the table. Major Arnold was absent for supplies and delayed, supposedly for lack of conveyance; whereupon Mr. Clark procured two yoke of oxen and started at once for Omaha for provisions and lumber. Never having driven oxen before he met with many mishaps. By traveling all night through rain and mud he reached sight of home next day at sunrise, when the oxen ran away, upsetting the lumber and scattering groceries over the prairies. Little was recovered except some bacon and a barrel of flour.

Finally, the hotel was ready for occupancy and Col. George Stevens with his family took up their residence there. It was the best hostelry in the West. Mr. Stevens was appointed postmaster and gave up one room to the postoffice. The Stevens family were very popular everywhere.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Kuony were married at the Douglas House in Omaha about 1855 and came to the new hotel as cooks; but soon afterward started a small store which in due time made them a fortune.

In March, 1856, my husband sent to Indiana for me. I went to St. Louis by train, then by boat to Omaha. I was three weeks on the boat, and had my gold watch and chain stolen from my cabin en route.

I brought a set of china dishes which were a family heirloom, clothes and bedding. The boxes containing these things we afterward used for table and lounge. My husband had a small log cabin ready upon my arrival.

I was met at Omaha by Thomas J. Allen with a wagon and ox team. He hauled building material and provisions and I sat on a nail keg all the way out. He drove through prairie grass as high as the oxen's back. I asked him how he ever learned the road. When a boat would come up the river everyone would rush to buy furniture and provisions; I got a rocking chair in 1857, the first one in the town. It was loaned out to sick folks and proved a treasure. In 1858 we bought a clock of John Bauman of Omaha, paying \$45 for it, and it is still a perfect timepiece.

My father, Dr. J. P. Andrews, came in the spring of 1857 and was a practicing physician, also a minister for many years here. He was the first Sunday school superintendent here and held that position until 1880 when we moved to Blair.

In 1858 the Vanier brothers started a steam grist mill which was a great convenience for early settlers. In 1861 Elam Clark took it on a mortgage and ran it for many years. Mr. Clark also carried on a large fur trade with the Indians. They would go east to the bottoms to hunt and camp for two or three weeks.

At one time I had planned a dinner party and invited all my lady friends. I prepared the best meal possible for those days, with my china set all in place and was very proud to see it all spread, and when just ready to invite my guests to the table, a big Indian appeared in the doorway and said "hungry" in broken accents. I said, "Yes, I get you some," and started to the stove, but he said, "No," and pointed to the table. I brought a generous helping in a plate but he walked out of doors, gave a shrill yell which brought several others of his tribe and they at once sat down, ate everything in sight, while the guests looked on in fear and trembling. Having finished they left in glee.

RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF FORT CALHOUN

Local Historian W. H. Woods, who it is stated by his neighbors, knows all worth knowing about ancient and modern Fort Calhoun, has recently written the following in the columns of the Blair Tribune:

"I perhaps now know more of this place than any man living. The Iowa Town Company which had the fight over the location; then employed E. H. Clark to build the log tavern and lay out the new town west of the disputed dead man's claims.

"This at that time was to be a great commercial city and why not? The old fort at one time held the greatest business depot on the whole Missouri River, and in ten years the fur trading posts in walking distance of the townsite had shipped thousands of dollars worth of furs and probably outrivaled the whole British Columbia; and where else on earth had a great statesman seen a merchant handling his silver coin with a scoop shovel, as General Cass had seen John Cabbanne, only six miles away; and so great was the possibilities for this city that when thousands of acres of land hereabouts could be homesteaded or bought for a dollar and a quarter per acre of the government, the town offered Judge Stiltz \$100 an acre for his farm to add to the town.

"So in laying out the town, room must be provided for the great markets, etc., yet to come; so they set aside four plats of land for such needful purposes. East Market Square, Washington Square, West

Market Square and a schoolhouse site that some day might roam back toward the Elkhorn River as a college or university town.

"East Market Square on Seventh street, the west guard line of the old fort, was sold by the city some years ago, and is now known as the Steffen block. Washington Square in the center of the city was for the county seat and other such public utilities and on that was the first courthouse built for that purpose in Nebraska. It became, of course, a general utility building and was church and school as well. West Market Square is now the city park and the real pioneer school site is the property of Peter Schmidt. In some way the original school site had been pre-empted for residences, or a part of it, by some persons who had moved away and had got on the assessor's books as private property. This was explained to us by Elam Clark and Doctor Andrews, when we were asked to seek a new site for the schools in the seventies. Over two hundred acres of town lots have lost their streets and alleys and become either tax lots or joined onto other people's property. Probably in 1876 Judge Jackson helped me to throw out great areas of town lots now in surveyed and numbered tax lots that my predecessors had double assessed, entering them as town as well as tax lots, and when I went to two of them for advice they kindly told me that it was none of the assessor's business. But I failed to take my oath that way. So got the books cleaned.

"GRANDDAD WOODS."

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF SETTLEMENT

Washington County, Nebraska, is noted for its "Centennial Celebration" events, as follows: Lewis and Clark's Expedition, 1804; Fort Lesa, 1812; Fort Atkinson, 1819; First brickyard, farming, library and school at Fort Atkinson, 1820; the birth of Logan Fontenelle at Fort Atkinson, 1825. So it is seen that this county leads all others in Nebraska in its centennial history.

THE FORT CALHOUN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, 1919

On October 11, 1919, the quaint little village with so much of real importance connected with it, celebrated its centennial with an historic pageant and basket picnic dinner in the small handsome park. There addresses were given by Governor McKelvie, Mayor Smith of Omaha and Mayor Frahm of Fort Calhoun. This centennial marked the landing of the first United States troops sent into this portion of the Missouri Valley country.

No better description is needed in this connection than to refer the reader to one page of the neat folder program issued on that occasion, which reads as follows:

"It was at Fort Calhoun, later known as Fort Atkinson, that the soldiers, coming up the Missouri on a steamer, landed and there erected an army post that was garrisoned until 1829, when it was abandoned. However, white men and women continued to occupy the site and consequently Fort Calhoun is one of the oldest towns of the United States, barring those of the Atlantic States.

"Co-operating, the people of Fort Calhoun, Omaha and Nebraska have laid their plans for making this centennial celebration an event that will long be remembered in the future history of Nebraska. Working with them are the members of the Nebraska Historical Society, Sons and

Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons and Daughters of the War of 1812, Grand Army of the Republic and veterans of the recent war with Germany.

"This centennial will be an all-day affair and will be observed in the Calhoun Public Park, just west of the business portion of the village. There will be a pageant that will portray the landing of the soldiers and their meeting with the Indians, who at that time occupied the lands on both sides of the Missouri River. To make this feature strictly realistic, there will be soldiers from Forts Omaha and Crook and Indians from the Omaha Reservation. The pageant, in which there will be a number of floats, will pass over the village streets and to the park, where the exercises will be held.



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

LEWIS-CLARK MONUMENT, FORT CALHOUN

"This centennial is to be a gathering of the pioneers and others of Nebraska, but it is not to be for them alone, as indications are that there will be hundreds of visitors from Iowa and other nearby states.

"An immense picnic dinner is to be served at noon, and that none may go away hungry, other arrangements have been made for feeding the multitude. On the grounds will be numerous cafes and eating houses, and in addition a regulation army kitchen will dispense hot food and drinks during the day."

Everything promised—more too—was fulfilled and a large gathering assembled will long remember the noted celebration.

Among other features was the circulating of a "Centennial pocket coin," same size as the United States dollar piece, and about its weight. It has the dates "1819-1919" inscribed on its face; also the thirteen emblematic stars of our coins. One can but ask himself the question: "What will the conditions be on these grounds at old Fort Atkinson (Calhoun) when another hundred years have rolled away into oblivion? Will the day be observed as a celebration day? Will there be in evidence a single one of these pretty pocket-piece-coins?" Time alone can answer this for we will not be present to record the proceedings of the day.

ROCKPORT—A TOWN OF THE PAST

Bell's History of this county, written in 1876, gave the following concerning a long-since-passed-away "town":

"Time was when Rockport, situated on the Missouri river, about a dozen miles above Omaha, was one of the best known, and one of the most flourishing towns in Nebraska. It was settled in 1857. William H. Russell was one of its founders, J. P. Burkett, Hawley Bros., David and Stephen Neal and Doctor Lewis were also among the early settlers of Rockport. Burkett was later agent of the Yankton Sioux Indians.

"Rockport boasted at one time a fine large hotel building, but for some reason was never furnished, and was finally moved down to Florence. It was built by the Town Company. A splendid body of hard-wood timber surrounded the town, and extensive stone quarries were opened up and successfully worked in the vicinity. But the timber was cut down by the Union Pacific railroad company, who also bought the quarries. There was no good agricultural country surrounding the place, hence soon dwindled down to almost nothing after the stone and timber interests passed away. In the long ago the heavy timber and deep ravines surrounding this settlement, afforded excellent facilities for the hanging of horse thieves, which facilities were utilized, until finally extensive and prosperous leaders of lawless horse-fanciers who made their headquarters near De Soto were effectually broken up. It is a significant fact that the county lost a number of its most prominent citizens in consequence of the disorganization of this band of horse thieves." Today there is no evidence that there was ever a village here. Newspaper files and old men's memory must be depended on today for all that is known of Rockport.

An account of this old-time village was given in 1912 in the World-Herald, Omaha, in which the writer stated that the changing of the river's channel was what put Rockport out of commission. When this article was written there was still the remains of a good-sized foundation built from brick at that point. At one time it had almost 500 people and was an important steamboat landing. It was built up in the early years of the nineteenth century, about the date of old Fort Atkinson. Its site is near the present Carl Holst farm home. The shifting waters and uncertain river-beds of the Missouri caused it to vanish in a few days.

VILLAGE OF FORT CALHOUN

Fort Calhoun Village is the oldest village in Nebraska, and was incorporated in 1855, one year earlier than Omaha was. It is situated in section 11, township 17, range 13, east. It is about two miles west of the present banks of the Missouri River. The early annals of this historic place is treated later in this work, and has descriptions by local writers whose lives have been spent largely in this vicinity.

Here one finds the most picturesque scenery in all the commonwealth. Just to the west of the village is a high bluff overlooking the pretty meanderings of the Missouri as well as a glimpse of the waters of the Elkhorn. From near the cemetery one can view the country up and down the valley and from west to east for a distance of many miles, both on the Nebraska and Iowa sides of the Missouri. The public park in the village, proper, was set to artificial trees more than forty years ago, by the hand of that much-beloved and highly honored pioneer and local historian, W. H. Woods, who still survives to tell the story of old Fort

Calhoun. The many beautiful shade trees in this park now tower up thirty, forty and fifty feet; their branches and great trunks stand out as so many living, growing monuments to the forethought and good sense of the pioneer who planted them out, just on the eastern slope of the ridge which runs just to the west of the village. This park reminds one of the saying, "A thing of beauty and a joy forever."

The first store in Fort Calhoun Village was that conducted by A. P. Allen, in the '50s. He kept groceries and also a good stock of "Wet Goods" (liquors).

The second business house was the store of Col. George Stevens.

With the passing years many have been connected with various business enterprises in this village. Today the commercial and professional interests of Fort Calhoun consist of the following:

General Merchandise—Otto Kruse, William Sievers.

Drugs—William R. Goll.

Banking—Washington County Bank, Fort Calhoun State Bank.

Blacksmithing—Henry Schmidt, Louis Clausen, G. V. Beadle.

Meat Shop—Frank Wolff.

Newspaper—The Chronicle.

Lumber—Calhoun Lumber Company.

Garage—Henry Schmidt.

Real Estate—Adams & Cook.

Hotels—The "Clary Chicken Dinner Inn," R. A. Johnson's Hotel.

Physician—Dr. E. S. B. Geesaman.

Milling—The Washington County Alfalfa Milling Company.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY ITEMS

Through the untiring energy of that wonderful "historical digger," W. H. ("Granddad") Woods of Fort Calhoun, it has been learned that this is Nebraska's oldest incorporation—older than Omaha—incorporated in 1855 and its first mayor was W. B. Beals. When the Town Company was incorporated in August, 1857, Elam Clark was elected president of the town; again in 1867 he was elected and doubtless held the office until 1873, when E. N. Grennel was mayor; also in 1874. Under Grennel, Farm Brooks got a license to sell liquor from a saloon. Whiskey was considered "groceries" then and sold over the counter by such men as A. P. Allen and Norman Jacoby, who moved to Salt Lake. The records also show mayors as follows: L. Crounse, 1886; A. R. Toozer, 1887; George Neale, 1890; Henry Taylor, 1891; Henry Rix, 1893; L. Crounse, 1896; B. F. Adamsons, 1902; John Hendrichsen, 1904; I. I. Wager, 1905; Doctor Curtis, 1907; Fred Frahm, 1909; James Walton, 1912; W. Sievers, 1913-14; Fred Frahm, 1915; W. Sievers, 1916; James Walton, 1917; Wallie McMillan, 1918; John Hendrichsen, 1919, who died and was succeeded by James Vaughn in 1920.

PRESENT VILLAGE OFFICERS

The 1920 village officers of Fort Calhoun are as follows: Mayor, James Vaughn; clerk, Mr. Wagers; treasurer, Henry Pickle.

The corporation has a town hall—a two-story frame structure; also a small cement block jail; the fire department and its equipment of hook and ladders, chemical engine, etc., are all well housed in the town building. Electric lights are provided by connection with the City of Omaha. This improved means of lighting was had first in January, 1917.

SCHOOLS, ETC.

The village has excellent educational advantages for so small a place. It has a good two-story frame schoolhouse which stands on the old courthouse site. (See account of County Seats of Washington County.) This schoolhouse was erected in 1900 but has been added to since. It has six rooms. On the ground which the house stands stood the first courthouse ever erected in Nebraska.

FORT CALHOUN POSTOFFICE HISTORY

Through the genius of getting at the facts of local history possessed by W. H. Woods, the editors of this volume are enabled to give the following on the postoffice at Fort Calhoun:



(By Courtesy of Blair Tribune)

HIGH SCHOOL, FORT CALHOUN

He writes as follows: In 1854 Congress passed a bill for a United States post road from Table Creek, now Nebraska City, to Bellevue, Omaha and Florence to Fort Calhoun, probably called for by the Iowa Company at Kanesville, or Council Bluffs, that employed veteran E. H. Clark to lay out our town and build a log cabin opposite our present Fort Calhoun City Park.

"Omaha, August 16, 1904.—Friend Woods:—The following were the first postmasters in Fort Calhoun: George W. Newell, 1856, (2); E. H. Clark, (3); Lewis McBride, (4); George Stevens, (5); W. A. Jacoby, (6); George Stevens, second time and I became the seventh in 1865 and resigned thirteen years later when I took my family to Europe.

"Yours truly,
"JOHN B. KUONY."

The first paper on our desk reports that George Stevens has been appointed postmaster at Fort Calhoun, Territory of Nebraska, and swears he will perform his duty as regards postoffice and postroads in the United States and support the Constitution and his wife, on the

same blank affirms that she will do the same and signs herself, Helen D. Stevens in the presence of William B. Beals, mayor of the City of Fort Calhoun, who swears he believes them to be over 16 years old and this required 15 cents revenue stamp for him and 5 cents for her.

Again required by an act of Congress in 1862, he again has to swear that he has never voluntarily borne arms against the United States while a citizen or voluntarily given any aid, counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto. He has never yielded any authority to any pretended government of the United States and he promises to help defend against any domestic or foreign foes of the United States; and he received notice from Washington that his bond for \$1,000 required 50 cents in revenue stamps and his security was given by Dr. J. P. Andrews and Hiram Craig; and Mayor Beals had to swear that he believed that they were worth double the amount of the bond.

The next one reported was Hon. P. W. Hitchcock, at Omaha, that John B. Kuony has been appointed postmaster to succeed George Stevens then running without bonds. Kuony's commission, instead of letter size, blossoms out in spread-eagle style. He had to have an assistant and give bonds for both. He must not give credit for postage but make his returns at least two days after the ending of each quarter, and want of funds will be no excuse for not mailing funds as ordered; neither must he change the name of the postoffice without Government consent. In those days the postmaster was not allowed to loan, use, deposit in banks or exchange for any other funds. Those were days of "wild-cat" bills and counterfeit silver and as the postmaster was supposed to know all such by smell or otherwise, the exact money taken in must be sent to Washington. As occasionally a postmaster was robbed at night and his only recourse if he had enough to make a squeal about was to apply to his congressman to have a special bill passed through Congress that was worded, "For the relief of John Doe who had met with a fire, tornado, thieves, etc., and wanted reimbursement from the government." Of this list George Stevens and E. H. Clark are buried here. Jacoby the Mormon, that the boys when he was drunk laid on the floor and turned the molasses faucet loose on him and pried him loose with shovels in the morning, went to Salt Lake City.

LATER POSTMASTERS

More recent postmasters here have been these: Mr. Fenner followed John B. Kuony, then George Neale and Miss Minnie Neale. Without giving the order in which they served it is certain that others have been: Mrs. George Stevens and two daughters, Mrs. Deane Slader and two daughters, Mrs. Pettingill and two daughters, Robert Livingston, Mr. Rowher, Henry Taylor, W. R. Goll, Wallie McMillan, Frank Adams, Miss Freda Paulen and in July, 1920, came Miss Finch.

- North -

- EAST -
MISSOURI BLUFFS FROM
75 TO 100 FT HIGH.

MONROE ST.	COURT ST.	CITY PARK YARD.	MADISON ST.	DEFFERSON ST.	Washington
CONCESSIONS	U.S. BRICK	CITY PARK YARD.	MADISON ST.	DEFFERSON ST.	Washington
MONROE ST.	COURT ST.	CITY PARK YARD.	MADISON ST.	DEFFERSON ST.	Washington
MONROE ST.	COURT ST.	CITY PARK YARD.	MADISON ST.	DEFFERSON ST.	Washington
MONROE ST.	COURT ST.	CITY PARK YARD.	MADISON ST.	DEFFERSON ST.	Washington

RAVING AND WAGON ROAD
WITH CELLARS ON NORTH RAVING,
SOUTHERN RAVING, OFFICERS GUARDS
AND GUARDS, BLOCKS ABOUT FOUR FEET SQUARE.

PLATE 47. CALIFORNIA
VIRGIN AGATE

1. 2004 8/11 2007-2008
2. 2004 8/11 2007-2008

— South —

EXPLANATION TO OLD FORT ATKINSON MAP
(Later known as Fort Calhoun)

The readers of this work are indebted to the untiring efforts of W. H. Woods, a pioneer and veteran of the Civil war, now residing at the Village of Fort Calhoun, for the information contained herein concerning this, the oldest United States fort west of the Missouri River. It was established in 1819 and abandoned in 1827.

Nos. 1 and 2 represent stone houses north of the fort and northeast of the present locust grove.

No. 3, locust grove planted in 1822—still growing.

No. 4, headquarters buildings.

No. 5, blacksmith shop.

No. 6, gun shop.

No. 7, moat running west from the river bluff to present school building and then south to Turkey Creek (see dotted line).

Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11 was the parade ground.

The river bluff to the east of the reservation or grounds, where the buildings stood, are from 75 to 100 feet high, and the river now runs almost three miles to the east of where the channel then ran.

No. 12 is steamboat landing.

No. 13, a path or trail to the river and a wagon road running to the stream also. The officers and hospital gardens were south of the ravine.

No. 14, bakery.

No. 15, the flouring mill.

Nos. 16 and 17, two warehouses with stone foundations near the mill.

No. 18, powder house.

No. 19, probably the flagstaff.

No. 20, guardhouse.

No. 21, Contell's residence.

* * * Rifle-pits along the high bluff overlooking the Missouri River, still visible.

Note by W. H. Woods: "This map of course is not perfect, but we have spent much time and labor over it and is the nearest I can outline after years of study. Sergeant Contell was a large, portly man, a soldier under Napoleon, then emigrated to Canada and in 1819 passed over to New York and enlisted as drum-major and came with the first troops and left with the last; his son, a small boy, was here the whole time; was educated by the government at Jefferson Barracks, served in the regular army twenty-one years and retired as a captain and came to Blair several years before his death and with the writer (W. H. Woods) walked over the fort grounds to the brick-yard west of the present city park, pointing out the position of the Council House, the rifle-pits, and placed the guard line at what is now Seventh Street in West Calhoun, First Street then being Water Street, below the bluff and as near as he could determine, they lived just west of the guard-line at No. 21—see diagram."

CHAPTER XXIV

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

AN OLD SETTLEMENT—HOW IT OBTAINED ITS NAME—FIRST TO SET STAKES—BEAUTY AND ACTUAL VALUE OF TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURALLY—POPULATION—BOUNDARY—ORGANIZATION—FIRST A PRECINCT THEN A TOWNSHIP—VILLAGES OF KENNARD AND WASHINGTON.

Richland Township is situated on the southern line of Washington County, bounded on the north by Blair Township, on the east by Fort Calhoun, on the south by Douglas County and on the west by Arlington Township. The villages of Washington and Kennard—both good railroad points—are within this subdivision of the county. Its chief stream is the Pappillion River, flowing from north to south, and has many smaller tributaries or little creeks. Its present population is about 1,400. In 1900 it was placed at 1,179 and in 1890 at 1,000. Up to 1883 it was under "precinct government" but since then with other subdivisions of the county, is under "Township Organization." For long years this part of Washington County has been noted for its beautiful farms and natural scenery. The pioneer settlers lost no time in setting out shade trees, which have long since towered skyward as much as fifty feet. These beautiful artificial groves give a cooling shade for both man and beast in the heated days of midsummer, while in the wintry season they provide a duly appreciated windbreak for stock.

SETTLEMENT

This settlement in the southwestern part of the county, was effected in part, as early as the summer of 1856, when Russell Miller and his three sons-in-law made the first actual settlement. Each of these men took a half section claim of land agreeable to the Omaha and Elkhorn Land Clubs. Miller took the north half of section 28. Adams, Lyons and Dowling, the sons-in-law, took adjoining claims. Two or three houses were built and Miller broke out some prairie. Miller bought the claim of another who did not long remain in the country, but possibly had broken a small patch of ground before leaving. That "first" squatter here built a log house in which Mr. Adams lived and died. When the township (precinct) was formed it was called Richland because Mr. Miller refused to have it called by his name and suggested "Richland," that being the place in Ohio from which he came.

Henry Wright broke a strip where S. S. Blanchard later resided. He sold to W. E. Purchase, and "held" the claims for him for awhile. Purchase bought a sawmill that summer or fall, the third in all this section of the Territory of Nebraska. The first was at Fontanelle; Shield's, at Elkhorn Ferry, on the Military road to Fort Kearney, was second, and the one at Iron Bluffs, or West Point, made the fourth.

A man named Oaks also held down a claim and carried the mail on foot to and from Omaha, forty miles.

Some time during the summer of 1856 H. R. Benjamin, C. A. Whitford and Odillon Whitford, took claims in sections 8 and 9. They built a good log house very near the C. A. Whitford place. It was for years

known as the Indiana house on account of that being the state from which they came. Silas Masters built a log house on his farm in the autumn of 1856. Dennis, Caleb, Winch and Adam Studt bought claims and occupied them in the fall of 1856 and winter of 1857—the "hard winter." Theophilus Thompson and R. B. Brown wintered at Thompson's on Walnut Creek. In the summer of 1856 also came in Orrin Colby and built a small house and improved as fast as possible his claim. In 1876 Bell's history of the township stated Colby had one of the finest farms in the township, if not in the whole county.

In the early spring of 1857 a number of settlers wended their way into the township. Judge J. S. Bowen, later editor of the Blair Times, his son, Will R. Bowen and Doctor Heaton took claims in section 13 and section 14. Joseph, Levi and Hiram Johnson took claims in section 23. Azariah Masters, Sr., father of Azariah, built a large log house. McVicker also joined McNaughton in sections 15 and 22. In the summer of 1857 Mrs. Adams, daughter of Russell Miller, died, leaving a husband and two children, who soon after returned to Ohio. Nathaniel Brewster, early in the summer of 1857, built a house on the hill north of the present depot at Kennard.

In 1858, David Bender came in and erected a good house in section 9. About the same time came his son-in-law, Amos Shick, and he engaged in the sawmill work. Later he improved his claim. John Hilton came to the township in 1858, but died in a short time at the old Thompson house. After his death the house and contents was burned. Doctor Benjamin sold to Simon Hammer and his brother-in-law, Hadley. The Ultz family, being related to Hammer, came in about that date.

John A. Unthank came in the fall of 1858, as did also Peter S. Reed and T. C. Powers. They took land in section 24. Reed was an energetic man; had seen service in the Mexican war; became captain of Company "A," Second Nebraska Regiment, formed in 1862, chiefly from citizens of Fontanelle, Richland and Fort Calhoun. Richland Township furnished eighteen men for the company named.

The breaking out of the Pike's Peak gold fever, the on-coming Civil war, caused this township to depopulate considerable. But when peace was finally restored in 1865, the settlement again commenced to increase with returned soldiers and others.

THE VILLAGE OF KENNARD

Kennard is situated on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad in section 5, township 17, range 11, east. It was platted by the Sioux City & Pacific Railway Company, named after Hon. Thomas F. Kennard, secretary of state in 1867. Its present population is about 400. It was incorporated as a village April 29, 1895, and its chairmen have been as follows: Al Brewster, John Nissen, O. A. Alloway, W. H. Harrison, C. M. Weed, L. E. Ward, J. C. Neal, E. C. Nelson, O. W. Marshall, H. C. Blaco.

The list of village clerks to date is: J. I. Norton, W. H. Terwilliger, John Butts, W. E. Swihart, Charles E. Kelley, George Menking, L. E. Ward and the present clerk, G. E. Kronberg, who has served since 1916.

The 1920 village officers are: Chairman, H. C. Blaco; clerk, G. E. Kronberg; treasurer, R. H. Denton. The board consists of the last named gentlemen, together with James A. Sip and W. R. Seger.

A system of waterworks was installed in 1909, costing \$7,000. The bonded indebtedness of Kennard is now only \$2,000. It has a volun-

teer fire department of twenty-four members. The present fire chief is C. E. Lautrup. The equipment of the village for furnishing water consists of the old well, 100 feet deep and the new well 180 feet, with double-acting pump, 850 feet usable hose, with a building suitable for the equipment to be stored and where the council now assembles.

CHURCHES, LODGES, ETC.

The lodges of Kennard include these: Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Masons, Modern Woodmen of America Danish Brotherhood.



By courtesy of Elgin Tribune

KENNARD SCHOOL

The churches are the Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, Church of God, all of which, with the lodges above mentioned, are treated in detail in special chapters on such subjects elsewhere in this volume.

The public schoolhouse is a frame structure two stories high with basement. It contains six school rooms and there are now five instructors. The building was erected about 1910. (See Educational chapter.)

BUSINESS INTERESTS IN 1920

The following constitutes the chief business factors of Kennard in the summer of 1920:

Auto Garages—Minking & Seger.

Banking—Farmers and Merchants Bank, Home State Bank.

Barbers—Chris Petersen, John Wagner.

Blacksmiths—J. A. Swihart.

Cream Stations—David Cole Company and the Almito Company.

Drugs—B. R. Jones.

Elevators—Farmers Co-operative Company, Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company.

Furniture and Hardware—E. O. Fairchild.

General Merchandise—Farmers Co-operative Company, James Sip and D. Hall.

Hotel—“Dixon.”

Harness—James Applebee.

Implements—H. C. Blaco.

Lumber—This is handled with coal, etc., by the above named elevators.

Meat Shop—Samuel Hall.

Millinery—Mrs. D. Hall.

Newspaper—Kennard Weekly, by Otto Olsen.

Physician—Dr. J. B. Anderson.

Photographer—J. B. Wright; also handles school books.

Postmaster—William McCourdy.

Restaurant—B. Abels.

Stock Buyers—Burgess Brothers.

Shoe Repairs—S. Olsen.

Temperance Billiard Hall—Frank Franksen.

Veterinary Surgeon—Doctor Mock.

VILLAGE OF WASHINGTON

Washington is situated in the southwest quarter of section 32, township 17, range 11, east. It is a station on the Chicago-Northwestern Railway between Arlington and Omaha and has a population of about 125. The place was incorporated in 1915 and its present (1920) officers are: Chairman, Herman Busch; clerk, Gus H. Peterson; treasurer, S. K. Rosenkilde; other members of the board are J. B. Wardell and W. A. Kerstetter.

So far the village has made but few improvements, has neither electric lights or waterworks. It has a brick-frame school building, with two rooms, and employs two instructors. This schoolhouse was erected about 1916.

There is one church in the place—the Methodist Episcopal—which owns its own building. (See Church Chapter.)

BUSINESS INTERESTS—1920

Bank—The Washington State Bank.

Barber—R. G. McDonald.

Blacksmithing—S. K. Rosenkilde.

Dry Goods and Notions—Mrs. H. Busch.

General Merchants—Gus Peterson, Theo Jensen.

Grain Dealers—Roger Gorman and Herman Busch.

Lumber—Roger Gorman.

Postmistress—Miss Carrie Peterson, since 1917.

Meat Market—Theo Jensen.

Garage—C. E. Lee.

Farm Implements—H. E. Lyons.

Restaurant—Kerstetter & Co.

The postoffice has one rural delivery route of about twenty-eight miles in length. The office is a fourth-class postoffice.

The only lodge in the village at present is the Woodmen of the World.

CHAPTER XXV

GRANT, SHERIDAN AND LINCOLN PRECINCTS

GRANT TOWNSHIP—ITS CHARACTER—ITS NAME—ITS ORGANIZATION—ITS POPULATION AT DECADE PERIODS—FIRST SETTLERS—GENERAL FEATURES—SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP—BOUNDARIES—POPULATION—SETTLEMENT—POSTOFFICE—LATER SETTLERS—KILLED IN INDIAN SCARE—LINCOLN PRECINCT—ORGANIZATION—BOUNDARY—PIONEER SETTLERS—POPULATION—SETTLERS OF 1856-57 AND 1858—EXPERIENCE WITH INDIANS—GOING AFTER PROVISIONS.

When Local Historian Bell wrote his Centennial History of Washington County in 1876, he mentioned the then quite new townships of Grant, Sheridan and Lincoln in language as follows:

"The above named precincts are of comparatively recent settlement; but wonderful changes have been wrought within the past half dozen years.

"Grant precinct is in the northern part of the county, west of Herman. Among its first settlers were L. P. Thone, Martin Peterson, Gilbert Thone, William Raver, L. D. Cameron, Foxwell Fletcher, Edward Fletcher, S. C. Rose, Perry Selden, Frank Whizinand, Mr. Crane, Josiah Pace, Alfred Van Valin, Samuel Spiker, Thomas Wilson, M. A. Preston, Daniel Geary. Nearly all of the men have splendid farms, and are more or less engaged in stock raising. This part of the county is well watered by New York Creek and its tributaries, along which are fertile, beautiful valleys especially adapted to grazing, the grass growing rich and luxuriant."

ORGANIZATION, POPULATION, ETC.

Grant Township was organized after the Civil war and named for that illustrious commander and President—U. S. Grant. It had a population in 1890 of 926; in 1900 it was placed at only 886, and the United States census returns in 1910 gives it at only 775. The writer is at a loss to account for so great a decrease in population, but such seems to have been the fact. Possibly a change in boundary lines may account for a part of the loss in population. The 1920 enumeration has not yet been made public.

Sheridan Township is situated in the extreme northwestern corner of Washington County. It is bounded on the north by Burt County, on the east by Herman Township, on the south by Fontanelle Township and on the west by Dodge County. It contains thirty sections of land. Within its borders and in section 33 is situated the little Hamlet of Admah. There is no railway in this township. It is chiefly given over to extensive farming and stock raising. There are no large streams but a large number of small water courses break up the otherwise monotonous appearance of the territory.

The population of the township in 1890 was 649; in 1900 it was 575, and in 1910 placed at 546. The 1920 census returns have not yet been made public.



(By courtesy of Blair Tribune)

R. PETERSON FARM

ITS SETTLEMENT AND HISTORY

Sheridan had for its original settlers people who stopped along the banks of Clark Creek in 1856-57, at a date when this part of the county was yet counted as a part of Dodge County. The interior and eastern parts of this township were not settled until many years later. Among the Clark and Logan Creek settlers may now be recalled such men as Chris Leiser, Charles and Fred Eisley, Uriah Thomas, Harvey J. Robinson, who built the first grist mill at the fine water power later owned by A. C. Briggs & Son, John and Silas Seeley, Samuel Williams, Tom and Sam Parks, Sullivan Gaylord, J. B. Robinson, John and Dick Shur (who was accidentally killed by Tom Parks during the Indian scare of 1859), John Clayton and his father-in-law, Mrs. Clark, Chris Hinneman and Mr. McBroom.

Once there was a postoffice in this township called Lewisburg, on Clark Creek, but it was sacked by the Pawnees in June, 1859, and discontinued soon thereafter.

Between 1866 and 1876 the following located in this township: W. A. Johnson, Phillip Gossard, David Clark and son, Hiram G. Clark, Archie Bovee, W. O. Hatch, Robert Adams, John Adams, Anson Hewitt, C. B. Sprague, Robert Schenk, J. M. Jackson, Joseph Cook, Henry E. Meservey, L. L. Arnold, Matthew Maloney and Thomas Dunn.

ADMAH HAMLET

In the northwest corner of Washington County, in section 33, township 20, range 9, east, is the Hamlet of Admah (named for a Bible name). The earliest settler there was G. Pegau, who was appointed first postmaster there also. A general store and a shop or two, a physician, a Presbyterian Church and a Lutheran Church, with possibly a hundred souls constituted all the interests the place ever had in its best days.

Lincoln Precinct (as formerly called but now township) is situated almost in the central portion of Washington County, with Grant Township at its north, Blair Township at the east, Arlington Township on the south and Fontanelle on the west. It contains thirty-six sections. It is without a railroad or town, except the Hamlet of Orum in section 19, where there has been for years a country store and a shop or two for the accommodation of farmers.

There are no large streams, but numerous small watercourses of value in watering and draining the domain within its borders. The largest stream is Little Bell Creek in the western part of the territory.

POPULATION

In 1890 the population, according to the Federal census reports, was 856; in 1900 it was 850, and in 1910 had decreased to 791. The department at Washington has not made the 1920 enumeration figures public as yet for the subdivisions in Washington County, hence they are not here added.

SETTLEMENT

This township was organized about 1866. The first attempt at claiming land within this part of Washington County was in 1856, by Pomeroy Searle on a portion of the farm later owned by E. S. Gaylord,

who was state's representative in 1876 from Washington County. Bell's Washington County History, published in 1876, gives the best account extant of the first settlement in this township.

In 1857 Searle broke out about twenty acres and set out both fruit and forest trees. In 1858 he went to California and the first permanent improvement was made in the township in 1868. In that year there were only two families living on the route from Cuming City to Fontanelle, viz.: A. Sutherland and Benjamin Taylor. F. Curtis had his cabin up but it was unoccupied. On the north to the line of Burt County there were only four settlers. There were a few settlements on the southern border of the township.

In 1857 John Mattes pre-empted the land later owned by William Hilgenkamp and the next year a Mr. Coyle settled on the adjoining place north, subsequently owned by William's father. With the exception of Mr. Parker, who settled on land later owned by Herman Stork, there were no new settlements made in the township until about 1862.

James R. Tharp bought the land he later owned among the early purchasers but went, it is believed, to California and then to China, returning to his old home in New York in time to enlist and go through the Civil war, after which he returned and located on his place in this township in 1868. In 1865 or 1866 the influx of homesteaders commenced and settlements were effected by George Morley, Frank Curtis and John A. Young and sons, followed soon after by H. N. Mattison, his son George, Mr. Ostrander, Soren Jensen, Henry Hilgenkamp and others, who secured good farms and made valuable improvements in this township.

In 1857 William R. Hamilton, county commissioner for six years prior to 1876, and W. M. Saint settled on the west side of Bell Creek. In the autumn of the same year a party of nine Indians made a raid on Saint's cabin, he being absent at the time, robbed it of all the provisions, cut open a feather bed, gave its contents to the winds and replaced the same with the stolen property secured upon a pony and then mounting, raised a whoop and charged upon Mr. Hamilton and his brother-in-law, who were building a sod stable at his place and who stood upon the defensive, arms in hand. After circling around them a while in a menacing manner, and finding they "didn't scare worth a cent" the redskins came to a parley and wanted something to eat. Upon being refused they made a break for the house but were beaten in the race by Mr. Hamilton, who finally drove them off. On the following day Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Saint went to the Indian camp on the west side of the Elkhorn River to try to recover the stolen property but failed.

The spring of 1858 opened with scarcity of provisions among the pioneers and Mr. Hamilton with a team of three yoke of oxen started in search of supplies and in the course of his travels found himself at Magnolia, Harrison County, Iowa, having crossed the Missouri River on the ice. After obtaining the needed supplies and starting for home he was told that the crossing was unsafe, but there was no alternative. The family at home was in need and the stream must be crossed at all hazards, so locking the wheels of his wagon he drove down the bank upon the ice. While trying to undo the lock the ice sank about eighteen inches; he not wishing to travel in that direction whipped up his team and came over in safety.



